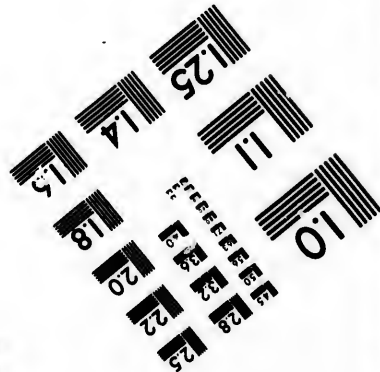
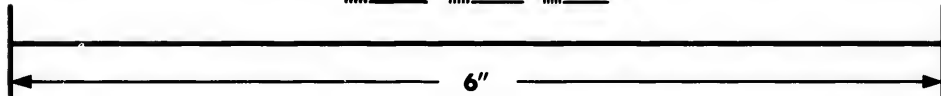
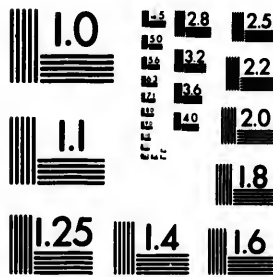


**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

© 1982

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion
along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la
distortion le long de la marge intérieure
- Blank leaves added during restoration may
appear within the text. Whenever possible, these
have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées
lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte,
mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont
pas été filmées.
- Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires:

Irregular pagination: [1]- 150, [1]- xii, 151 - [156]p.

- Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached/
Pages détachées
- Showthrough/
Transparence
- Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata
slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to
ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement
obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure,
etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à
obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	14X	18X	22X	26X	30X
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12X	16X	20X	24X	28X	32X

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

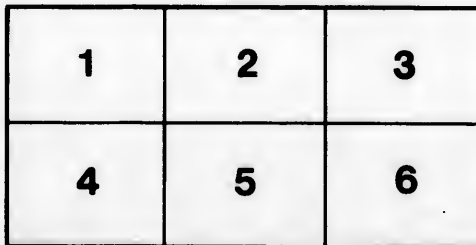
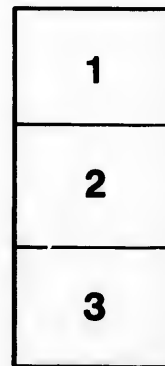
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol \rightarrow (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ∇ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole \rightarrow signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ∇ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

aire
détails
ues du
modifier
ger une
filmage

ées

re

y errata
nd to

nt
ne pelure,
çon à



A SYSTEM
OF THE
CREATION OF OUR GLOBE,
OF THE
PLANETS,
AND THE
SUN OF OUR SYSTEM;

FOUNDED ON THE FIRST CHAPTER OF GENESIS, ON THE GEOLOGY
OF THE EARTH, AND OF THE MODERN DISCOVERIES IN
THAT SCIENCE, AND THE KNOWN OPERATIONS OF
THE LAWS OF NATURE;

As proved by the Discoveries of
LAVOISIER,

AND OTHERS IN PNEUMATIC CHEMISTRY; AND BY

M. A R A G O'S

Astronomical Discoveries, lately made at the Paris Observatory.

Fifth Edition, Revised and Enlarged.

BY HENRY TAYLOR.

TORONTO:

PRINTED AT THE EXAMINER OFFICE, KING STREET.

1846.

NOTICE TO THE READER.



The Reader will find the Extra Matter for the Fourth and present Editions in the Appendix No. 2, at the end of the Work.

BRITISH
MUSEUM

Is
pe
tic
ad
w
se
ins
an
tor
Di
ha
ha
tw
rev
aft
a f
Bri
I
wo
bec
latt
I w
yea
Lon
ple
pre
sell
be
tisi
circ
I g
Fai
wit
tus
18

PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN my endeavours to reconcile the present Geological appearances of our Earth, with the Mosaic account of Creation, the only certain means that appeared to me, were, the adoption of that construction of the first verse of Genesis, which I have stated in a part of this Work, and it will be seen by an extract from the *Quarterly Review* of April last, inserted below, that this construction has been confirmed and sanctioned by the writings of Professor Buckland, Doctors Pusey and Chalmers, Bishop Gleig, and other eminent Divines. These authorities have removed the diffidence I had long felt to publish a different construction from what has, hitherto, prevailed.

The original manuscript of this work was composed between the years 1819 and 1825. The writings of the above reverend gentlemen were published, I believe, several years afterwards and none of them had been perused by me, until a few days, since, when I met with the Review of the Bridgewater Treatise of Doctor Buckland.

In the summer of 1829, I presented a prospectus of the work to Archdeacon Mountain, and to the Bishop of Quebec. The former kindly complimented me on it, and the latter recommended my publishing it in London, for which I was soon to embark. I arrived there in October of same year, and presented the prospectus to the Lord Bishop of London, from whom I received a note by which he was pleased to commend the design of the work. I subsequently presented the prospectus to several of the principal Booksellers, who, on learning that the size of the work would be that of a pamphlet, informed me, that the cost of advertising was so great, that no pamphlet would pay it, and my circumstances preventing me from incurring that expense, I gave up the intention of publishing.

In the mean time, a reverend gentleman of the name of Fairholme was publishing a theological work connected with geology, and I enclosed to him a copy of the prospectus, and in a letter I received from him, dated Oct. 14, 1833, he says, "With regard to the Creation of our earth

or of the sun, and other members of the Solar System, I have neither found in the work of any writer, nor can I conceive the smallest grounds on which to form a consistent theory, nor indeed do I conceive that it belongs to the science of geology at all.* Scripture has given us no insight into it. The existing laws of nature are equally silent, *and yet, these laws must have existed from the beginning.*" He then assumes, "that the granite mass has been formed before the existence of organized beings, as their remains are never found in it," an opinion which, I think, the reader will find answered in note 2d of this work; and the assertion, that neither scripture nor the laws of nature give any insight into the Creation, appeared to me so futile, that I have inserted the above extract, solely to prove, that the system I had formed, had not, at the date of that letter, been *yet* made by any other writer.

By the following extract from the Bridgewater Treatise of the Rev. Doctor Buckland, published long since the date of Mr. Fairholme's letter, it will be seen, *that* my construction of the 1st verse of Genesis, has been sanctioned and confirmed by the authorities mentioned above.

And having presented my prospectus to the persons above named, and also to the Royal Institution in Albemarle-street, London, in 1833, I consider it a duty to myself to claim the originating of that construction, by which the general appearance of *gradual deposition* in the geology of the earth, (whose diameter must, according to the modern geologists, have existed millions of years) will, as well as this supposed age, be now reconciled, and satisfactorily explained by the Mosaic account.

Extract from the Review of the Bridgewater Treatise.

"If there are any lovers of science yet ignorant of the extent and fertility of the field which Geology has laid open—of the intensity and variety of interest by which those who explore it are repaid—here is a work to astonish and delight them. If there are any persons yet deterred from the study of this fascinating science, by the once prevalent notion, that the facts, or theories if you will, that it teaches, tend to weaken the belief in revealed religion, by their apparent inconsistency with the scriptural account of the creation of the globe—*here*, in the work of a dignitary of the church, writing *ex ca-thedra*, from the head quarters of orthodoxy, they will find the amplest assurances that their impression is not merely erroneous, but the very reverse of the truth: for that, while its discoveries are not in any degree, at variance with

* In this he was right, it belongs to the science of Cosmogony

▼

the correct interpretation of the Mosaic narrative, there exists no science which can produce more powerful evidence in support of natural religion—nonewhich will be found a more potent auxiliary to revelation, by exalting our conviction, of the power, wisdom and goodness of the Creator.

Several hypotheses have been proposed, with a view of reconciling the phenomena of geology, with the brief account of creation which we find in the Book of Genesis and others. It has been plausibly stated, that the Six Days of Creation must, each of them, be understood to imply, not as now, a single revolution of the Globe, but some other cyclic period of unknown extent.—Dr. Buckland, however, prefers that explanation which is supported by the high authority of Dr. Pusey, the Regius Professor of Hebrew in Oxford, and has the sanction of Dr. Chalmers, Bishop Gleig, and other eminent contemporary divines,—namely, that the phrase employed in the first verse of Genesis, '*In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth,*' may refer to an epoch antecedent to the 'first day,' subsequently spoken of in the fifth verse, and that, during this indefinite interval, comprising perhaps, millions and millions of years, all the physical operations disclosed by geology were going on. Many of the Fathers quoted by Professor Pusey, appear to have thus interpreted the commencement of the sacred history, understanding from it, that a considerable interval took place between the *original creation of the universe*, related in the first verse, and that series of events of which an account is given in the third and following verses.

'Accordingly,' says Professor Pusey, 'in some old editions of the English Bible, where there are no divisions into verses, you actually find a break at the end of what is now the second verse; and in Luther's Bible (Wittenburg, 1557) you have in addition, the figure **1** placed against the third verse, as being the beginning of the account of the creation on the first day. This is just the sort of confirmation which one wished for, because, though one would shrink from the impiety of bending the language of God's Book to any other than its obvious meaning, we cannot help fearing lest we might be unconsciously influenced by the floating opinions of our own day, and therefore turn the more anxiously to those who explained Holy Scripture before these theories existed.'—*Note, p. 25.*

Thus all difficulty, arising from the immense antiquity of the Globe attested by Geology, is at once removed. The circumstances related in the succeeding verses must be understood as referring to those immediate changes by which the surface of the earth was prepared for the reception of man.—Just as the facts disclosed by astronomy, without detracting ought from the credit of the inspired historian, prove, that the sun, and moon, and planetary bodies must have existed previous to the 'fourth day,' on which he first mentions them as 'made,' or *appointed* to serve the office of 'signs and seasons, and days and years;' so Geology,

in no degree contradicts the real meaning of the text, by proclaiming the fact, that the air, the earth, and the waters, were peopled by living creatures for innumerable ages before the epoch in the world's history—which the sacred historian alone contemplates."

Under the sanction of this confirmation of the construction I had put on the first verse of Genesis, in my original manuscript, formed between 1819 and 1825, (and which is now greatly enlarged by the addition of the notes containing an account of the late geological discoveries, and observations upon them,) I now present this work to the public of Canada, and conclude this preface with the sublime description of Eternal Wisdom given us in the 8th chapter of Proverbs; which, I trust, will justly apply to the great additional light which the modern discoveries in pneumatic science are enabled to confer on the Cosmogony of the Creation.

"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.—v. 22.

"I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.—v. 23. (Say before the Combustion of the Gasses, as shown in this work.—p. 31 and 32.)

"When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.—v. 24. (At the Combustion of the Gases, as shown in this work.—p. 31 and 32.)

"When he prepared the heavens, I *was* there; when he set a compass upon the face of the depth."—v. 27. (After the Combustion of the Gases, as shown in this work.—p. 31 and 32.)

HENRY TAYLOR.

TORONTO, Nov. 22, 1836.

PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

SINCE the printing of the first Edition of this Work, I have met with several publications of high scientific character, confirmative of the System of Creation I had ventured to offer to the World. Extracts from these will be found inserted in the Body of, and in the Notes to, this second Edition.

Sharon Turner, in his Sacred History of the World, 1st vol. p. 375, says "Scientific men have traced the constituent substances of our Globe to sixty or more simple Bodies, which at present rank as Elements, because they are not further decomposable, and these appear to have constituted our Primordial Rocks; but, there are abundant reasons for surmising, that they are not the primitive Elements of Material Nature; and therefore, until they can be resolved into the particles or substances which are so, we shall not attain those perceptions of the original composition of our multifarious Earth, which will present the deciding and satisfactory truth. We must know what Silica, Alumina, Magnesia, Lime, Carbon, Iron, and other Metals and primitive components of Minerals intrinsically are, before we can actually discern the Processes of the succession, the causations, the agencies, the laws and the principles on which the primary and secondary masses were originally formed. The acquisition of this further information would have been thought impossible in the last century; but, human sagacity and industry are now exploring what is unknown, so perseveringly, and so successfully, that every month may bring us the information, that some diligent analyst in some country or other, may be drawing from Nature, those great secrets of her Primordial Chemistry, which have hitherto been impervious and inaccessible."

Now, in the first edition of this work, we have given extracts from the writings of eminent Botanists and Chemists, in support of our Theory, and to prove the power of the functions of vegetation to produce many of the substances above mentioned, and we have a right to conclude, that the remainder may equally well have been produced thereby, and by the animals of the Primeval Ocean, since

some marine animals are well known to secrete the lime of which their shells are composed, and the Islands formed by the Coral Insect, equal in length one eighth of the diameter of the Earth. The basis of almost all the primary earths have lately been found by Sir Humphrey Davy to be metallic, and in note first of this second edition, it will be seen from Sharon Turner's work, that several metals are produced by these functions of vegetation. If this power be allowed by scientific men to these functions of Terrestrial vegetables, we certainly may, by the clearest rules of induction, believe they were also possessed by the Marine vegetable kingdom of the Primeval Oceans of Genesis,* and most likely in a higher degree, for the great end of producing the solid parts of the earth; and we have then a palpable way of accounting for these productions, namely the continual labour of some species of the Marine animals during life, and the deposition of the Marine vegetable and Animal kingdom after death; and accordingly most of the Geological bodies we are enabled to analyze are found to contain the same materials as the remains of vegetable and animal life afford.

If therefore, this Theory of the power of the vital functions of vegetation and animalization be sustained, we trust we shall have come to a sufficient knowledge of what "Silica, Alumina, Magnesia, Lime, Carbon, Iron, and the other metals and primitive compounds of the minerals intrinsically are:" for, if the functions of vegetable and animal life be allowed to have produced these substances in the Oceanic waters of Genesis, they must have produced them from the elements which surrounded them, namely, Oxygen, Azote, Hydrogen, Caloric, Light and Electricity blended together by the vital principle of the vegetable and animal, in proportions of vast variety, and by which variety the separate characteristics of these different substances have been produced; for, to show the wonderful effect of variety in the proportion of the Elements of bodies, we find, that Oxygen and Azote combined in one proportion, form the atmosphere we breathe and live in; but, the same elements combined in another proportion, produce the strong and deleterious acid Aqua Fortis or Nitric Acid. I cannot, therefore, but believe, that by our theory of the formations from the Waters of Genesis, we shall be able in Sharon Turner's own words "actually to discern the processes of the succession,

* Sodium, one of the new metals discovered by Sir H. Davy is contained in all marine vegetables.

the casuations, the agencies, the laws, and the principles on which the primary and secondary masses were originally formed," and that these processes will be brought to Light by our Theory of the Earth.

To our construction of the true interpretation of the first verse of Genesis in page 27, we have, in note 3d of this edition, given extracts from a recent publication of the celebrated Doctor Chalmers, who has adopted our construction of that verse.

In note 4th, we also quote from Doctor Clarke's Commentaries in further confirmation of our construction of said verse.

In note 7th to this edition, we have the great satisfaction of giving the sanction of the opinion of Mr. Arago, one of the leading Astronomers of the present day, to our system of the Creation, as far as regards the formation of the earth; first, by the condensation of its waters, from aqueous vapor, and the subsequent formation of its solid parts, and organic formations. We have, indeed, since the publication of the first edition of our work, received the verbal and written approbation of it from men of science, and competent judges in these Provinces; but, the confirmation of the system by so eminent a Philosopher of Europe, is peculiarly grateful.

In page 44, I have in this edition, ventured an idea of the design intended by the Creator, to be effected by the internal fires of the earth, namely, the end of hardening the geological bodies, which must originally have been deposited from the waters in a soft and humid state, and although we are accustomed to consider these Fires solely in a terrific point of view, they may, perhaps, be found to add one more indication of Divine Wisdom, in the final preparation of our globe, for sustaining the immense velocity, and unceasing continuity of its double motions through the regions of space.

At the close of our Theory of the Sun, and of the means of supplying the waste of his light and heat, we have added, in this second edition, some observations on the ideas stated by Doctor Herschell, on the opaqueness of the Sun, and on the spots that appear on, or adjacent to his surface; and it will be for men of science, should our Theory meet their perusal, to form their own judgment thereon, and also, on the questions we have proposed to them on this subject.

In note 5th to this edition, we have commented on Doctor Buckland's opinion that vegetable and animal life did not exist previously to the transition or secondary formations of

the Earth. And we trust to have shewn, that as all traces of shells and organic remains may be destroyed by a heat less than is required for the fusion of the rocks that had contained them, so, the *non existence* of life in the earlier periods of creation *cannot be sustained*; but that, as it is highly probable the internal fires were then much more frequent and extensive, so all appearances of the more ancient remains of vegetable and animal life must have been completely obliterated and destroyed. The recent discoveries of Sir Humphrey Davy, in his Galvanic Experiments on the primary earths, appear too, to confirm the probability of our Theory. The Granite mass is mostly composed of these primary earths, which he has found to consist of metallic bases, united to oxygen in a solid state. Now Oxygen is one of the most abundant constituents of vegetable and animal life. The basis of several metals also, we trust to have shewn in our work, are the produce of the vegetable process. Mr. Good, in his Book of Nature, page 239, says, "I have already had occasion to observe that Albumen and Fibrine are substances formed by the action of the living principle, out of the common materials of the food, and that it is probable the *lime* found in the bones and other parts, is produced in the same manner."

Now, while it is allowed by all Geologists of modern date, that these *functions of life* have had so great a share in the formation of those parts of the Geological bodies, which are accessible to our examination, we may, it appears to me, conclude by reasonable induction, that the same mighty engine of formation has been employed from the "beginning" to construct the entire diameter and circumference of the earth, more especially, as we know of no agencies equal to the vital functions and their deposits, for producing formations, and I trust to have shewn also, in Note 5, to this Edition, that the idea of the incandescence of the Earth, will not render this Theory untenable.

In note 6th of this edition, will be found an extract from Good's Book of Nature, in which the opinion of the immortal Newton is stated, on the subject of an ethereal and elastic medium, pervading all space in the heavens; which opinion, we consider as a strong confirmation of that part of our system relating to the mode by which the Sun's waste of light and heat may be replenished.

I have now solely to present this second edition to the public, relying with confidence on their candid perusal of it; and hoping, that I shall have at least gained one end, that

of exalting the utility of the sciences on which I have formed this system of creation, towards enabling us to discover more fully, the wisdom of the First Cause in his Creation.

In that part of the work which treats of the dissolution of the earth, we have stated an idea, that "the indestructibility of the laws of nature, and their eternal tendency to form new combinations of matter, offer a proof also, of the distinct destined existence, and of the immortality of the soul of man." (See pages 80 and 81.) If this induction be just, we may infer from our reason, that the soul is immortal, and it may perhaps offer a consolatory confirmation of the revealed religion, that its promises are found consistent with our reasoning powers; and with the inductions of science. And I ardently hope, that this power of the sciences, may tend to lead many of the rising generation to acquire a knowledge thereof, and a zeal for their future advancement, in furtherance of greater and glorious discoveries of the benevolent wisdom of our Creator.

HENRY TAYLOR.

QUEBEC, MARCH, 1840.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE THIRD EDITION.

Since the publication of the second edition of this work, I have found that the celebrated Hutton, as is stated by Keith, was of opinion, that all the geological bodies of the earth, had been formed by "marine exuvia or remains." It is satisfactory to have this part of the theory of the earth, which, previous to my seeing this opinion, I had formed and presented to the world, sanctioned by so great an authority.

But Hutton's Theory of the Earth, being adverse to the Mosaic account of the creation, he drew upon himself much obloquy from the supporters of it; and it is to be lamented that a due consideration of the first verse of Genesis had not occurred to him; as, most probably, his sagacious mind would have discovered, how completely the explanation we have in our theory given of that verse, will give the length of time which, in the opinion of many geologists, the various formations of the globe require.

Many of the modern geologists, however, who had published their works previous to the Rev. Dr. Buckland's *Bridgewater Treatise*, in which the above construction of the first verse of Genesis is assumed, or who, having not yet sufficiently contemplated that construction, so as to adopt it themselves, and, probably, not willing to come into collision with the sacred writings; these geologists, I say, have now abandoned the practice of forming any theory of the earth at all, and limit themselves to the collection of geological facts. Now, it appears to me, that if, on a due consideration of the facts which botany, chemistry, pneumatics and geology present us with, it be conceived, that by a just combination of these facts, we can by fair induction and analogy, gain an insight into the most mysterious operations of Nature, and of the laws which its omnipotent Creator may have established for these operations; there is then no just cause why such a combination of these scientific facts should not be attempted; there is no just reason why the human mind should be fettered in the profoundly interesting science of Cosmogony more than in any other. There is not, perhaps, in the vast range of Nature's works, one which excites in the mind a greater

degree of mysterious wonder, than the inspection of the rocky formations of the earth. The perfect order in the movements of the heavenly bodies, their surprising distances and magnitudes, it is true, are of a more grand and sublime description; but the rocky formations belong to our own domain, and however some may call in question the vast distances and magnitudes of the heavenly bodies, yet, of the enormous depths, breadths and lengths of the formations of our earth, we have the direct evidences of sight and touch.

What are the agencies by which the Creator has formed these mysterious productions, is therefore the silent question which every close observer of nature asks himself. And, accordingly, numerous theories, not only of the crust of the earth, but of the earth itself, have long since been offered to mankind. Many of these, however, being founded only on the imaginative conceptions of ingenious men, have not maintained their ground. None of them, I believe, but Hutton, as before mentioned, and a few of the German geologists have offered any tangible mode of formation which the Deity may have chosen, for the production of the entire body of the geological formations of the earth.

In the first paragraph of the preface to the first edition of this work, I have stated that my object in forming my construction of the first verse of Genesis, was, to be enabled to reconcile the Mosaic account of creation with the time said by the modern geologists to be required for these formations—having done this, my next wish was to enquire what physical laws the Creator had chosen to produce them. By physical laws they are undoubtedly formed, as far as we have access to examine them; and we have the powerful sanction of every part of nature, to conclude by analogy that the entire diameter of the globe is equally so. By the 6th, 7th and 9th verses of the 1st of Genesis, we find the earth was covered by the waters until the time of the separation. We have therefore just right to conclude it was formed in those waters of Genesis, and, accordingly, as stated by one of the best modern geologists—“Every part of the earth, every continent and every island exhibits the phenomenon of marine productions.”

Our theory is founded on these scriptural and geological facts; and we have a confirmation of the competent powers of the vegetable and animal deposits and labors of the marine animals of the ocean to produce these formations of the earth, in the known and established fact, of an extent of

land more than equal to one eighth of the diameter of the earth, being formed by a few species of marine insects, for the Coral Islands and reefs of the Indian Sea and Pacific Ocean are 1,500 miles long by 60 or 70 broad.

In the course of my journeys through this province, to offer my works for sale, I am happy to state, that a great majority of the people appear to be duly impressed with a belief in the sacred scriptures; indeed I have met with some who seemed to think the Mosaic account of creation required no support. These were, however, generally persons unacquainted with the authenticated geological facts. It is unquestionable that many of the formations have been produced by *gradual* deposition from the waters; and must have required a period for that deposition immensely greater than that since the creation, being near 6,000 years.

Some modern geologists claim indeed millions of years for these formations of the crust of the earth; and we trust, we can thoroughly satisfy these claims by the construction of the 1st verse of Genesis, now sanctioned by the eminent writers mentioned in the preface to the first edition.

We trust also to have presented a palpable clue to the discovery of the mode in which it may have pleased the Deity to have constructed the solid machinery of our globe. The vastness of this machinery is indeed calculated to strike the mind with awful wonder, but it is his work, and, as such, a fair subject for the study and discussion of his creatures, as the more it is examined the more profoundly will be exhibited his bounty and his wisdom. We trust to have shewn, in note 5th, that the theory of the existence of animal life, previous to the secondary formations, is tenable, and, that the incandescence of the earth, as supposed by Dr. Buckland, does not overthrow it; and, therefore, that we have a right to say with a great modern geologist—“That the causes at present in operation must have been producing the same effects in all preceding ages.”

We conclude, therefore, that attempts to form a system of the creation, when based upon authenticated scientific facts, are allowable, and the more so, that in the present enlightened state of the world, these systems can be duly examined and their merits determined.

We have, in this edition, at the close of the theory of the sun's formation, given some account of Sir Richard Phillips' Theory of the Cause of the Motions of the Heavenly Bodies. This theory offers an additional sanction to those stated, in the 17th note, in favor of our theory of the exis-

tence of gaseous media in the regions of space. But we are by no means prepared to join Sir Richard in his opinions against the Newtonian theory of gravitation and attraction. We conceive that these great laws of Nature may still exist, and that they may be reconcilable to, and be assisted by, the gaseous media; and as we have shewn in note 6th of second edition, Sir Isaac Newton himself suggests "the existence of an ethereal and gaseous medium pervading all space;" and, perhaps, the existence of this gaseous medium, would serve to shew the physical cause of these principles of attraction and gravitation, and, thereby account for their effects.

We have also inserted an extract from Sir John Herschell's Astronomy of last year, also sanctioning our idea of the supply of the sun's waste by gaseous matter; and it is with the greater satisfaction we give this extract from Sir John's work, that the late Doctor Herschell was of opinion that the sun might be habitable. Sir John has now declared his opinion, that "the sun's zodiacal light is part of that medium which resists the motion of comets, and is loaded with the materials of the tails of millions of them which may be slowly subsiding into the sun." These materials must of course be gaseous; now the combustion of gaseous matter is nothing but the union of the base of the gas with that of oxygen gas, without which no combustion takes place, and the consequent extrication of the light and heat of this oxygen gas, by which we conclude, as per our theory, the waste of the sun's light and heat is replenished.

Accordingly Sir John, in another part of his work states his opinion, that there is "an enormous heat in the sun." Dr. Herschell, his late father, says, that the sun's luminous atmosphere is only 2,500 miles from the sun's surface.— That these admitted facts can be reconciled with his opinion of the sun being opaque and habitable, when under the influence of such enormous quantities of light and heat, appears to me totally contrary to all possibility.

In addition to these sanctions of the existence of an æriform medium in the regions of infinite space, we have the great satisfaction to refer the reader to our extract from Dr. Graham's Elements of Chemistry of last year, where he will find, that, from recent experiments of one of the most celebrated opticians, and philosophers of the present day, Sir David Brewster, he concludes that the "sun's atmosphere must contain gaseous matter."

Several explanatory additions are made in the body of this

edition, to which we ask leave to refer the reader, particularly to the Elucidation of the theory of the Formation of the Earth.

We now present the third edition of this work to the public of United Canada, trusting that the system of Creation we had attempted to form, will receive a considerable degree of sanction from the scientific authorities, discoveries, and observations we have now enlarged it with; and that it may be found to meet the approbation of scientific men of the present, and also serve as an instructive book for the rising generation.

THE AUTHOR.

MONTREAL, 1842.

po
th
hi
sci
so
us
me
fac
pos
pra
it
fro
its
pur
gar
the
sur
of t
vel
Alr
valu
year
and

articu-
tion of

to the
Creation
degree
es, and
l that it
men of
for the

HOR.

AN ATTEMPT TO
FORM A SYSTEM

OF THE
CREATION OF OUR GLOBE, &c.

THE reader will have received some idea of the purpose of the Science of Geology, from the prefaces to the former editions of this work ; and in order to exhibit to the Canadian public the practical utility of this science, we extract from a late Geological work of some merit, namely Elements of Geology for Popular use, by Charles A. Lee, M. D. of New York his statement of this utility. In the first paragraph of his preface he says—"No department of the natural sciences possesses greater interest or leads to more important practical results, than that of Geology. Of late years, it has attracted almost universal attention, not only from the fascinating wonders it discloses, but also from its obvious and extensive application to the economical purposes of life. Of such importance has it been regarded, that many of our State Legislatures, as well as the General Government, have authorized geological surveys to be made, in order that the natural resources of the country may be brought to light and fully developed. * * * * * Already have these surveys contributed millions in value to the productive industry of the land, and every year their importance is more and more demonstrated and acknowledged."

Many of the influential men in the Hon. Legislature of this Province, have honored me with their subscriptions to my work, and I am happy to observe that a liberal sum has since been appropriated by it, for a geological survey of the Province, which, I have no doubt, if performed with diligence and zeal, may discover great sources of industry and wealth for it.

I now proceed to give an account of the theory which the late discoveries of this and other sciences have suggested to me of the geological formation of our globe, and of the system of creation I had gradually formed.

In the year of our Lord 1819, I returned to the land of my birth, the Canadas, after an absence of nigh forty years in England and Nova Scotia, during which, I had undergone great misfortunes in an extensive line of mercantile business.

The pleasing sensations I felt on this return to my native country, may have been experienced by many; the intensity with which I felt them, may have been occasioned by so long an absence; and having now, as it were, fallen into the calm and pure resort of nature, the woods of Lower Canada, I was never more happy than in the study of her works. From early youth I had been fond of the science of chemistry; and now, some books of geology fell into my hands: with them I frequently compared the appearances I met with in my walks, which, being in unison with these books, gradually confirmed me in the opinion, that our earth was originally formed in a fluid, and was deposited from it.

In the treatise on chemistry by Professor Chaptal, I found an account of the chaotic system of creation or the ancients; by which it is supposed, that the chaotic

mixture, being formed, the various substances were attracted to each other, by the laws of mutual affinity, and precipitated.

On frequent reflection, however, on this theory, and contrasting it with the general state of the depositions of the earth in strata and laminæ, it appeared to me to be totally insufficient to account for these appearances: had a chaotic mixture been formed by the Creator, containing in solution all the various geological bodies, and had nothing more been required for their formation, than the operation of their affinities and attractions, these must have taken place immediately, and they would be found deposited in homogenous, and exclusive masses, according to their various affinities and gravities: but the formations are generally found in alternate layers and laminæ of frequently mixed substance, and this too without coincidence with the laws of gravity, and bear the certain marks, not only of being deposited from a fluid, but also, of a gradual and mixed deposition, at periods probably of immense distance from each other. This reflection led me to conceive that these depositions were gradually produced by some permanent and continually operating cause.

In the above mentioned work of Chaptal, I had found, and been much struck with, the beautiful and interesting theory he has given of the formation of the various primitive earths, and many salts, metals and mineral substances, by the processes of vegetation, which are found on the decomposition of those vegetables by analysis and combustion: I was also aware, that vast tracts of the earth are formed by vegetable, animal and marine depositions, and being one day occupied in reading attentively, the account of the creation in the

first chapter of Genesis, the waters therein mentioned forced themselves strongly on my attention and repeated consideration, until at last, the idea grew upon me, that the geological bodies of the earth were, somehow or other, *produced in these waters.*

That the earth was formed in a fluid, I now felt thoroughly convinced of; that a great part of its crust, consisted of vegetable and animal depositions, even almost to the tops of the highest mountains, as stated by geologists, seemed to me a proof, that these marine vegetables and animals must have previously existed in waters which produced these depositary remains; and, as no inundation or deluge is sufficient to account for these universal appearances of the formations in the earth; therefore, the waters or oceans mentioned in the first of Genesis appeared to me the only, and the truest sources by which we *can* account for them.

During my reading and reflections on this subject, and previously to my determining to form a Theory of the Creation, Archdeacon Paley's Evidences of Natural Religion fell into my hands, in which the atheistical doctrines of chance, and also, the notions of Buffon, of the earth's formation by a fragment knocked off by a Comet from the sun, is related, and commented on, by the Archdeacon.

I shall therefore, previously to advancing any thing more on the system of Creation I had gradually formed in my own mind, beg leave to make some observations on those doctrines of chance formation, and thus endeavour to clear the way for a system, I trust, more consistent with reason, and with our religion.

"Amongst inanimate substances, says Paley in p. 63, of his *Theology of Nature, or Evidences of Natural Religion*, a clod, a pebble, a liquid drop, *might be*; but never was a watch, a teles-

cope, or organized body of any kind, answering a valuable purpose by a complicated mechanism, the effect of chance; in no assignable instance hath such a thing existed without intention some where."

Now, it appears to me very singular, that Paley, after having so clearly exposed the absurdity of this theory of chance, should have thus conceded the possibility of a *clod*, a *pebble*, or a *liquid drop*, being the product of it; a clod is a piece or part of the earth; a pebble is a fragment of some rock rounded by the waters; a liquid drop is a part of those waters. The same cause then, that produced the earth and seas, produced also the clod, pebble, and drop.

But can there be any doubt that the earth itself contains marks of design and intelligence? That all its vegetables and animals contain marks of design, *he* has proved; now we cannot refuse the same evidence of design in the formation of the earth and seas, if it were *solely* as a *matrix* or habitation for those plants and animals; and, among the evidences of design which these last exhibit, I beg leave to mention one which, I believe, has escaped the observation of the Archdeacon—it is the *amazing varieties* exhibited in every species of these plants and animals. Had they been solely the offspring of a "blind conatus," there would, probably, have been but one species of each of them: but their vast varieties shew a master and designing hand to have directed their formation. The evidence of design which the earth exhibits, is not confined to its own formation; this evidence is much more strong, when we find and consider it as a part of a system of planets revolving in known periods round a central sun, whose light and heat are evidently the *intended* sus-

tainers of the life and enjoyments of the plants and inhabitants existing on this family of planets.

It is also stated in page 92 of the above work, that Buffon considers the Planets to have been "shivered off the sun by some stroke of a comet." Paley adds, "that he never could see the difference between the antiquated 'System of Atoms,' and Buffon's 'Organic Molecules;'" and that "this philosopher having made a planet, by knocking off from the sun a piece of melted glass, in consequence of the stroke of a comet, and having set it in motion by the same stroke, both round its own axis and the sun, finds his next difficulty to be how to bring plants and animals upon it," &c.

Now, as to the solid parts of the earth; allowing glass to be composed of a variety of materials, yet I believe no part of the interior of the earth is discovered to be vitreous, except in the vicinity of volcanic mountains, or where these have previously existed. How then has this glass, of which Buffon supposes the earth to have been formed; how has it been metamorphosed into the vast variety of mineral products which geology discovers to us? The internal substance of the earth down to its centre, is supposed to be granite, or bodies of greater density; and neither granite, nor the more external formations bear any resemblance to vitreous or volcanic matter.

But, if even the solid parts of our earth, will not support such a theory, how are we to account by it for its waters? Is it in the midst of the molten glass of a burning sun, we are to look for them? Water, however, is said to constitute three-fourths of the Earth's surface, and the total inability of this theory or supposition, to account for its production, appears to me de-

cisive against its foundation in reality. (*Vide 1st & 2d paragraph of Note 4th.*) Buffon's theory has also been completely refuted by the undoubted astronomical fact, that if the planets were struck off from the Sun, they must, in every revolution have returned to the Sun again.

I shall now notice the opinions on Chance or Atheism, as causes to account for the productions of nature, in our Globe.

The Organic Molecules of Buffon are thus stated by Paley, in page 427 of the above Work, Evidences of Natural Religion, namely: "we are to suppose the Universe replenished with particles endowed with life, but without organization of their own, and endowed, also, with a tendency to marshal themselves into organized forms."

It appears to me almost impossible that the author of this doctrine, if it be Buffon, could rest satisfied with this cause of Creation; because, although it should be allowed that these particles of life could infuse themselves into organized bodies, we naturally enquire, how came these particles themselves into the universe?— This is the secret, undiscoverable without allowing an "unknown cause." If Buffon would account for the existence of these particles by chance, I say, that from the time of their finding their way into these Molecules, or organized forms, there is so much, and so constantly exhibited in every one of these forms, what we call, in plain language, intelligence, and design to produce good and wise ends; that the term Chance, in the sense in which it would be employed by these Atheistical writers, completely comprehends intelligence and design, for these are found inseparable from these organized

forms ; therefore, the Doctrine of Chance, instead of confuting, proves the existence of an Unknown Creating Cause.

Were the term Chance to be understood merely in the common acceptation of the term, as existing, for instance, in many of the events of life, it will still always be considered as too absurd and impotent to account for the productions of Nature, because it is *not* in the nature of the human mind to rest satisfied with this Buffoonery idea of Creation.

Now, therefore, to finish with this, and with the notion of the planets being knocked off from the Sun ; to account for their creation thereby, without an Intelligent Creator, I must say, I feel it to be a daring thing of this or any writer, to have attempted the overthrow of the established opinions of all Christian nations, as set forth in the Scriptures, handed down to us from the people whom it appears to me, were chosen by the design of Heaven, to preserve mankind in the faith and worship of one Creator ; and which are, I believe, supported in their principal facts by the immortal Newton, in his system of the Universe, and were certainly believed by him.

Previous to thus presuming to overthrow this sacred religion, it appears to me, this author should have formed a system less replete with absurdity, but fortunately too much so, to produce extensively any evil effects.—Christians, in general, are fixed in their notions of the true cause of all they see, taste, and feel around them, and of their own existence. The Jewish Nation was taught by a religion which, from the days of Adam, had been followed by mankind,—a belief in one Almighty Creator of all things. This belief had nearly,

however, disappeared from the earth in succeeding ages. Men, enervated by the effects of those hot climates, and sunk in consequent sensuality, were tempted to throw off the wholesome restraints of a pure religion, and gradually fell into an idolatry, whose ministers, probably, permitted these sensual habits, to confirm their own power over these people. The Jews, alone, had preserved the worship of one Almighty Creator, until their posterity, after the deliverance from Egyptian bondage, had sunk them into the same idolatrous practices as their forefathers.

And here I beg leave to observe, that this repeated defection of the Jews, and of the rest of mankind, from the worship of one God, appears to me a strong proof that *Deism alone*, in its purest state, is not sufficient to prevent mankind from falling into idolatrous worship. But, the Saviour promised in the Scriptures by the inspired writers, arose at length to astonish mankind, and to bring them back for ever from that idolatry to a religion which alone is worthy of the highest degree of intelligence to which the mind of man can arrive; a religion which, while it allows him the most extended use of that intelligence in the contemplation of the works of Creation, teaches him, also, to be contented with the limits which appear to be fixed to it; and being convinced of the existence of an Almighty Protector, to feel the glowing pleasure of the adoration of Him, to be among his purest and most comforting sensations.

These cheering feelings of the heart and mind, cold and joyless Atheism is void of, and thereby its errors are proved; because the almost universal feeling of these emotions, and their cultivation by nations who

have at all risen above idolatrous worship, is a proof that these emotions came from the hands of Nature and Reason, and they appear to form the links of a chain which connects this with a future state of existence.

The supporters of the doctrine of Chance, however, disdaining to be contented with the Scriptural account of Creation, have formed various wild and futile notions to account for it, in order, no doubt, to seek for distinction by opposing the generally received doctrines; but finding, as I trust to have shewn, the total *impotence of Chance*, of APPETENCIES, PRINCIPLES OF ORDER, POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS OF MATERIAL FORMS, and of LAWS OF NATURE, &c. &c., to satisfy the inquisitive mind of man, they have been obliged to conclude with telling us, "that neither they nor we know any thing about the matter." (*Vide page 7, of Paley's Theology.*)

But, at that very point, where they have thus found themselves stopt in the extension of their enquiries, is seen "the God whom we worship." There, when this proud, but false philosophy finds its ignorance begin to darken it, we have the clear and powerful light of this true religion to illuminate us, and to teach us to rest satisfied with the impenetrable veil which its author has been pleased to fix between Himself and His creatures in this stage of existence.

On a par with these doctrines of chance-Creation is the idea of the Materiality of the *Human Soul*; and previous to dismissing this part of the subject, I beg leave of the reader to offer some observations on this Doctrine of Materiality.

The Materialist supposes, that all the powers of the mind of man result from his *Organization* alone. It

follows, then, as a natural consequence, that when this organization is destroyed, the mind is destroyed along with it. Materialism, then, necessarily leads us to a disbelief in a future state.

Now, in no part of Nature do we find faculties bestowed, which are not generally, productive of certain purposes to these parts ; therefore, if man were destined solely for existence on this earth ; if his thoughts were solely the effects of the organization of his frame ; is it not probable his thoughts would have been confined to the actual sphere of his destined existence ? Would he not have been unable to form those high imaginations and hopes of eternal happiness in more perfect regions ?

For, if we may reason from the vast body of evidence of her works, Nature does nothing, and bestows nothing, in vain ; she never appears to act with deception ; therefore she would not have given to men of all ages and nations those hopes of future happiness, merely to disappoint them. "I am positive I have a soul," said Laurence Sterne, "nor shall all the books with which Materialists have pestered the world, ever convince me to the contrary."

The vast powers of intellect and of science, by which man has been enabled to observe and to trace so exactly, the astonishing systems of the heavenly bodies ; those high passions and thoughts of future bliss which he is thereby led to hope for, in some such regions, partake too much of the nature of Spirit to suffer us to think they are solely produced by a more perfect organization than is bestowed on the horse, the mule or the ass.

It moreover has been proved by the anatomy of the brain of the Ourang Outang, an animal approaching

nearer to the human species than any other, that its brain exactly resembles that of the human species ; and it is said, "it is surprising this resemblance is productive of so few advantages ; the tongue and all the organs of the voice are similar, and yet the animal is dumb ; the brain is formed in the same manner, and yet the creature wants reason ; AN EVIDENT PROOF, [as Buffon finely observes,] that *no arrangement of matter will give mind*, and that the body, how nicely soever formed, is formed to very limited ends, when there is not infused *a soul to direct its operations* ;"—and I am the more happy in giving this quotation, as it shews that Buffon has indeed the redeeming quality of not acceding to, but of disproving, the degrading Doctrine of Materiality. We feel less surprised at the invention of such a doctrine, when we are informed who are its abettors or authors. Persons, who, in the practice of their art, having been long habituated to dissections of the human body, have thereby become more apt to form their notions from their eyes than from the reflections of their minds, have sought to make the world believe, that the superiority of the mind of man over other animals, arose merely from a more perfect organization of the brain ; and such an assertion reminds us of the Alchemists, who sought for the Philosophers' Stone in some of the most loathsome objects of nature. Had the Materialists watched and studied the operations of their own hearts and minds, in the hours of calm contemplation ; had they allowed these parts of their frames to exert a due influence over their opinions, they would, probably, have felt the force of the great poet's assertion, " 'Tis the DIVINITY which stirs within us."

They may, indeed, have carried their anatomical science and skill to that exact point where body meets

spirit; they may have discovered the precious matrix in which this "immortal spirit" is destined at present to reside; but, they would not thus have presumed to degrade its nature and its future destiny.

In fine, this material doctrine of the mind may well be said to savor too much of the shop; and no well cultivated mind can, I think, for a moment assent to so degrading a doctrine;—and I shall conclude this subject with an observation I have made on the separate existence of mind from body. When two persons converse together, the ideas of their minds pass from the organs of speech, through the air intervening between the two persons; in this passage, therefore, *an emanation of mind exists separate from the body from whence it came*. It is conveyed, indeed, by the vibrations of the particles of air it passes through, but it certainly has, during that period, an existence separate from the body and organs it proceeded from. An emanation of mind, therefore, can exist separate from its matrix, and in a form of matter entirely different from what it emanated from. Is it then not possible to conceive, that mind itself could be endowed with existence in the æriform state, as well as in the solid?

I now resume the narration of the course of thought which has led me to form the present attempt at a theory of the Creation of our system, and, by analogy, of the other systems of the heavenly bodies.

Being, as before stated, convinced that the earth had been originally formed in water, the enquiry, then, naturally suggested itself, what waters we had any historical account of which could produce this effect? The chaotic liquor of the ancients, I trust to have proved, is incompetent to account for the general geological ap-

pearances, and therefore fails. The waters of the Deluge can only account for certain changes in the earth's surface, which they may have occasioned, and which, no doubt, give proofs of the reality of that Deluge.—But, the proofs of formation in a fluid, reach far below the possible effects of an inundation which lasted only one year. The vast masses of marine depositions must have required numerous ages to accumulate, and even the granite mass gives proofs of formation or of alteration in a fluid, by the chrystals and heterogeneous substances it consists of; and this stupendous mass, which is supposed to form the whole interior of the globe, must have required a correspondent time for that formation.

To shew that it is not without good cause, we, in this work, attempt to vindicate the Mosaic account of Creation; and, by our explanation of the first verse of Genesis to account for the immense period of time required by the modern Geologists; we extract the following Note from a late work on Geology: “Although the world is not eternal, it is nevertheless very ancient, and, in calculating all the time that was required for the formation of the numerous beds which the globe presents to us, for the life and reproduction of all the animals and vegetables whose remains it contains, according to the time employed for the actual formations whose duration we know, we are forced to admit that the world is at least 300,000 years old.”—*Boubée's Geol. Populaire, page 7, Paris 1833.*

The only waters, therefore, with which History furnishes us to account for these phenomena, are certainly the waters of Genesis, *Genesis, chapter 1st, verse 9th.* “And God said, let the waters under the firmament be

gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear, and it was so." I then proceeded to inquire if the scriptural account of these waters would warrant the conclusion, that the earth was formed in them by the deposition of the strata and other rocks which the latest discoveries in the science of geology have pronounced it to consist of.

After a long and mature consideration I conceived, that the first verse of Genesis, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth," will not only warrant the above conclusion ; but, perhaps, also a like formation of all the planets and suns of other systems ; by the highly natural causes and effects of those laws, which the latest discoveries of Geology and Pneumatic Chemistry have found to exist.

I further considered, that if the scriptural account of Creation could thus be reconciled to those discoveries ; —if the Geology of the whole earth could thus be brought in proof of the reality and necessary existence of those waters ; the doubts of the Unbeliever might yield to it, and the authority of Scripture acquire new force.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Now, the term "beginning" points to *no specific point of time* ; and I have therefore conceived it may have been *ages* previous to the time of the separation of the earth from the waters as mentioned in the ensuing verses ; and that during *these ages*, the earth was gradually formed in these waters. By this explanation we shall be able to account for any length of time which the formation of the Globe may have required. (*See Note 3d to 2d Edition at the end of the Book.*)

By the famous discoveries of Black, Priestly, La-

voisier, and other chemists and philosophers, a new world has been disclosed to us. The constituent part of three-fourths of the surface of the globe, water, which was formerly considered as an element of Creation, has by these discoveries been proved to consist of two separate bodies, Oxygen and Hydrogen. Our atmosphere itself, the common air, is no longer to be considered as one of these elements: it is composed of the oxygen and the azotic gases; but neither oxygen nor hydrogen, nor azote, have ever been obtained separate, in a liquid state. They have yet been found only in the form of gases, that is, combined with light and caloric. By the combustion of hydrogen or inflammable gas in oxygen gas, the caloric and light of the latter escapes, and water is formed, in a quantity exactly corresponding with the weight of the gases employed in the combustion; and the same water may again be decomposed, and returned into the state of the gases it was composed of. This, therefore, being incontrovertibly proved, for all philosophical chemists are now agreed upon the fact—it follows, that the Waters of the *Universe* recorded in Genesis, MUST have been formed by the combustion of these gases; it follows, that if any part of these waters are composed of them, every part must; and, therefore, that the Deity, having first called these gases into existence, *did*, either by the power of electricity, the blaze of comets, or some other means, ignite the hydrogen gas, which, by its combustion in the oxygen gas, of which the empyreal atmosphere may have been partly composed, produced the *Universal waters of Genesis*. That the Oceanic waters must have been formed by combustion is proved by the fact that these elementary gases, Oxygen and Hydrogen, may be kept together for any length of time, and form no

water without combustion. (*See Note 4th to 2d Edition at the end of this Work.*)

These waters must have been thus first produced in a state of vapour, which, condensing into a liquid form would, by laws of attraction, form the Universal Ocean, the (matrix of our earth,) and planets of our system.* The vast body of heat and light disengaged from this immense combustion, may have formed the Sun of our system, which, by the laws of its gravity and attraction, assumed its place in the centre of it, as we shall attempt to show in the Theory of the Sun's formation.

We have now to inquire in what way, and by what laws, the Creator produced, from these waters, all the solid parts of our earth? To form the ground-work of our reasoning on this subject, we shall advert to, and consider attentively, the accounts of the Geologists of the marine strata and productions found in the bowels of the earth, and the experiments and opinions of some eminent Chemists upon the nature and products of the processes of vegetation.

“The Levels,” says Cuvier, one of the most eminent Geologists of the present day, “on which marine productions are now found, are far above the level of the ocean, and at heights to which the sea could not reach by the action of any known cause. Every part of the earth, every continent, and every island, exhibits the same phenomenon. The traces of revolution become more apparent, when we ascend a little higher, and approach nearer to the great chains of mountains. Beds of shells are still found here, but not of the same species as those in less elevated regions. When we ascend to greater elevations, and advance to the summits of

* See Note 7th to 2d Edition, at end of this Work.

the highest mountains, remains of marine animals grow more rare, and at length, disappear entirely; but the chrystallization, and many other characters of these rocks, shew them to have been *formed in a fluid*, &c.

It is impossible, therefore, to deny, that the waters of the sea have formerly, and for a great length of time, covered those masses of matter which now constitute our highest mountains; and further, that for a long time, these waters did not support any living thing."

This last sentence is the only one from which our Theory differs, and we refer the reader to Note 2d of 1st Edition, in support of that Theory, also, to Note 5th of 2d Edition.

Thus we have the evidence of Geology, that every part of the earth contains marine remains; and that even the summits of the highest mountains, where these marine depositions cease to be found, give yet evidence of *formation by fluidity*.

That these marine remains are not found in these summits may, I think, be satisfactorily accounted for. Many remains are found in the same forms as when they contained the living animals; but, on taking them up, they crumble into impalpable powder.

The summits, therefore, of these mountains, have probably contained these marine remains in previous ages; but being contiguous to the earth's surface, have, by the joint action of the air and rains, lost their organization, been converted into their component substances, and been incorporated with other mineral, metallic, or earthly bodies. Thus, all marble, lime stone, and chalk are found to consist of precisely the *same materials* as every marine shell; all are formed of lime and carbonic acid; and, it is therefore evident, that

wher
the
nera
into
latin
into
thin
mat
form
firm
Wis
page
shell
men
tree
who
earth
of d
earth
and
earth
has,
orig
tree
swa
cold
know
ing
gree
sub
in c
firm
in t
num

when the masses of shells shall be so far acted upon by the moisture of the earth, rains, internal fires and mineral *solvents*, as to lose their forms, and be converted into powder; that these agents, acting on and percolating through them in various degrees will reduce them into beds of chalk, or lime stone, or marble, and, I think it not improbable, the chalk and lime stone formations of the earth have been, in the course of ages, formed in this manner. This idea I have seen confirmed by Mr. John Wesley, in his "Survey of the Wisdom of God in the Creation." He says, in vol. 2d, page 256, "Chalk is no more than the ruins of sea shells, and lime stones consist of the same bodies cemented together by stony matter." Again, "where the tree falls there it lays," says the Proverb. Any person who has seen and noticed the aboriginal forests of the earth, will have observed these trees in various stages of decay—many of them reduced to a state of dust or earth; and these causes, in the course of time form hills and hillocks. In accounting for the origin of peat earth and morasses of black soil in Britain, a late writer has, therefore, very properly, I think, assigned their origin to arise from the gradual falling and decay of trees in ancient times, which, falling in marshy or swampy places, have decayed and acquired their black colour. In a great many parts of America, it is well known large tracts of land are found in this state, being covered by masses of black earth of various degrees of consistence, from two to eight feet deep. The subsoil frequently clay. In an article lately published in one of the English papers, there is an account, confirming the opinion, that part of the coast of Australia, in the South Seas, has been entirely formed by the manure of birds called the *Pettrel*, found there in such

astonishing quantities, that flocks of them are seen to cover a vast extent of the atmosphere for days together.

These facts, therefore, offer corroborating testimony, that large tracts of the earth can, and have been formed by the depositions of vegetables and animals.—(See Note 1.)

In a Geological work lately published in England, we have the following account of the order of succession of the different layers of rocks which compose the crust of the earth :—

Instances where found.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Vegetable soil. | } | Mouth of the Thames,
and other Rivers. |
| B. Sand, Clay, Gravel, with bones of same species as now exist. | | |
| C. Deep beds of Gravel, large loose blocks of Sand, all containing bones of animals belonging to species now extinct. | } | Surface of many parts of England, and especially the east and southern western parts. |
| | | |

TERTIARY STRATA.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| D. Sand, Clay, Pebbles, beds of sand, white Sandstone, many sea Shells, bones of extinct species of animals. | } | Hampstead Heath, Bagshot Heath, coast of Suffolk and Norfolk, the stone of which Windsor Castle is built. |
| E. Alternations of Lime Stone, containing fresh water Shells, Clays, of different qualities, and Lime Stone containing Marine Shells. | | |
| | } | Isle of White in England. |
| | | |

- F. Thick beds of Clay, many Sea Shells, beds of Lime Stone, remains of extinct species of plants and fruits, land and amphibious animals. } Many places round London, and a great part of Essex and north-east of Kent, Isle of Sheppy.

SECONDARY STRATA.

- G. Chalk with Flints. } Dover Cliffs, Brighton, Hertfordshire, Flambo-
Do. without do. } rough Head, in York-
shire, England.
- H. a. Chalk Marle. } Many parts of S. coast.
b. Green Sand. } Many parts of Kent and
Sussex.
- c. Thick beds of Clay. } The Wolds of Kent,
Surrey and Sussex.
- d. Yellow Sand with } Neighbourhood of
beds of Iron. } Hastings, in the Isle of
Purbeck.

In an account of the Geological appearances from the Lands' End, in England, towards the vicinity of London, the following facts are stated :—

The principal groups of secondary rocks, from the primary strata to the Chalk group, form the upper or more recent members of the division.

The Chalk group, the Oolite group, the Red Marle group, the Coal group, the Mountain Lime Stone group, the old Red Sand Stone group, the Graiwacke group, are of the following thickness :—

Mountain Lime Stone group, 900 feet thick.

Old Red Sand Stone group, 1,500 feet thick.

Coal group, 1,700 feet thick.

Red Marle group contains mines of salt and marbles, alabaster and magnesia, with marine skeletons : its thickness is 2,100 feet.

The Oolite group contains about twelve alternations of subordinate beds or systems of beds, consisting of Lime Stones of different qualities, and of Clays: their united thickness being about 2,600 feet, of which 1,100 are formed of two beds of Clay of five and 600 feet each. The whole group contains a vast abundance of *animal remains, almost exclusively marine.*

The Chalk group is separated from the Oolite group by several beds of sands, Clays, and Sand Stones, and, including them, is 1,900 feet thick. It extends from Flamborough Head, in Yorkshire, to Weymouth. The whole group *abounds in organic remains* of the same classes as Winford in the Oolite group. The above groups make 10,700 feet.

Thus it appears, that both the Tertiary and Secondary formations of the earth, contain vast masses of the remains of marine productions, many of them belonging to species now extinct. Many of these latter are said to have been of enormous sizes.

The Coal formations must probably have been produced by the decomposition of marine vegetables, as they reach far too much below the surface of the earth to suppose them to be formed by those of a terrestrial species.

The seams of Coal which lay below the Secondary formations at least, must, in my humble opinion, have been formed by depositions from the Marine Plants and Animals, before the separation of Genesis, as I cannot conceive that the vast masses which constitute the Secondary rocks can have been produced solely by any Deluge or Inundation.

Phillips, in his Geology, p. 158, says, "The Coal measures contain neither Reptiles, Birds, nor Mammalia.

Now, had the Coal been produced by Land floods or rivers, and deposited where the Measures are found, they must have contained Reptiles, Birds, and Mammalia. The ferns also found in these measures, are from 40 to 50 feet long, and as Phillips says, are quite unlike terrestrial ferns, which do not grow now more than four or five feet. No effect of climate could occasion so great a difference. Therefore, they probably were *Marine Ferns* grown in the depths of the Ocean of Genesis.

Now then, to refer to the words of Cuvier, "the Levels on which marine productions are now found, are far above the level of the ocean, and at heights to which the sea could not reach by the action of any known cause."

To what cause can we then ascribe this phenomenon, but to the substantial, plain, and simple one the original formation of the earth: all its geological appearances give evidence of formation in a fluid. Of no waters have we any record sufficient to account for these facts, save the waters recorded in Genesis. These, therefore, forcibly press themselves on our attention, and appear perfectly competent to clear up all these phenomena of Creation.

But water alone, that is, holding no extraneous substances in solution, either partial or complete, *deposits nothing*. All its depositions are found to proceed from extraneous bodies. The petrifying power of certain waters, of which such fabulous opinions have formerly existed, is solely owing to the deposition of earths or salts it had previously dissolved, completely or partially.

We shall, therefore, proceed to state our humble conceptions of those laws of nature, which the Creator

may have chosen for the gradual formation of our earth in the waters of Genesis, on the ground work mentioned above, regarding the 1st verse of the 1st chapter of that book.

GENESIS, 1st chap. 1st verse.—“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

I wish first to premise, that as I consider this scriptural account of Creation, to be the only one by which we can, naturally and reasonably, account for the geological phenomena of our earth; so, the only thing in which I differ from the, hitherto, received opinions of that Creation is, in the construction which, (from a desire to account for these phenomena, and to reconcile them with the scriptural accounts,) I have put upon the meaning of this 1st verse of Genesis.

As before observed, I had in the course of these studies of nature, been led by them, and by reading and reflection, gradually to come to such a construction of that verse as the following: that the term “The beginning,” *pointing to no specific time*, may refer to numerous ages previous to the separation of the waters from the waters mentioned in the 6th, 7th, and 9th verses; and I moreover consider, that every man hath a perfect right to form such a construction of the Word of God as his understanding, after mature reflection on His works, and a diligent study of them, may lead him to, and more especially when his design is good, when he conceives he is thereby not only adding weight and authority to these scriptures, by bringing the evidence of the geology of every part of the globe to their confirmation, but, perhaps, silencing thereby the infidelity of the sceptic, and, as he may hope,

exhibiting, in a stronger light, the Power, Wisdom, and Glory of his Creator.

In the 2d verse of Genesis, it is said, " And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the Waters."

By this verse, it would appear, the Earth was completely covered by the waters; otherwise, the Spirit would have been recorded, as having also, moved upon the land; and the 9th verse is confirmatory of this circumstance, for it says,—“ And God said let the Waters under the Heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the Dry Land appear; and it was so.” This event, then, I consider to have happened many ages after the time of the first verse; which verse, I further consider, to point exactly to that period, to which the psalmist, David, in the 102 psalm, 25th verse, refers,—“ Thou Lord in the beginning hast laid the *foundations of the Earth;*” and I consider this foundation to have been the formation of the aqueous globe of our theory,—the Universal Waters of Genesis.

We now proceed to our statement :

The sea, or globe of water, mentioned above to have been formed by those gases which the modern discoveries in pneumatic chemistry prove all water to be formed of, and being destined by the Creator to produce habitable Earth or Land, we shall conceive this aqueous globe to have been endowed by Him for that purpose, with amazing prolific powers of life, both of the vegetable and animal nature.

The remains of many of those marine animals, whose skeletons have been lately discovered in the earth, of a species never known to have inhabited our seas, are of

gigantic stature and dimensions, as compared to those of any existing species.

The marine Shells, the Chalks, and Lime Stone formations, which I consider to have been produced, as above observed, by the gradual disintegration of these shells in the course of sufficient ages; the vast Coal formations, also, prove the amazing masses of animal and vegetable life, which we shall now suppose, according to our theory, to have existed in those waters of Genesis; and for proofs of which, we accordingly refer our readers to the geological statements in the preceding pages.

To account further for the primary earths, Lime, Silex or Sand, Sand-stones, Flints, Gravels, Clays or Aluminous earths, Terra Ponderosa, Magnesian earths, Salt formations, Metals, Mineral substances *of all kinds*, and the Rocks and other substances composed of them and of the Primary Earths; we shall now proceed to a statement of those experiments, opinions and theories, which have been performed and maintained by several eminent chemical philosophers on this important head.

In the treatise on Chemistry by professor Chaptal, mentioned in pages 18th and 19th, the following facts are stated to have resulted from the analysis made by him of certain vegetables :

“ The herb Patience affords sulphur ; vegetables in their analysis, likewise present us with certain metals, as Iron, Gold, and Manganese. The Iron forms nearly one-twelfth of the ashes of hard-wood. It may be extracted by the magnet; but it is seldom in a naked state, but is combined with the acids of vegetation. The Iron is not imbibed from the Earth, but is

FORMED BY THE VEGETATIVE PROCESS. Lime, constantly enough, forms *seven tenths* of the fixed residue of vegetable incineration, usually combined with the carbonic acid. Next to Lime, Alumine is the most abundant earth in vegetables; and next Magnesia. Siliceous earth likewise exists, but less abundantly; least common of all is Barytes or Terra Ponderosa."

As an evident and sufficient proof that all the products of vegetables are produced by the water, and, perhaps, the air, necessary for their growth; I extract also the following observation of Professor Chaptal: "It appears proved by Van Helmont, that vegetables can live and grow with only air and water. He planted a willow weighing 59 lbs., and watered it with *distilled water* five years. It increased to 169 lbs., the earth it was grown in lost *only two ounces*." If one vegetable be thus proved to acquire its growth from water and air, the strong probability is, that, as Chaptal says, "all others do," and by the uniformity of the laws of Nature, we may conclude this law applies generally to the vegetative process. (*See Note 15.*)

Thus, although Sir Humphrey Davy supposes, but does not assert, the fact, that these earths are taken up by the vegetation from the soils around them; yet, as he does, in another part of his writings admit, that all substances, before entering the tubes of vegetables in nutrition, must be reduced to a state of complete solution in a liquid before that absorption can take place; and as it is well known that argillaceous earth, or alumine, silex or sand, and magnesia, are almost insoluble in water, and that lime is only soluble in very small quantities; I have therefore concluded, that such a

perfect and sufficient solution, as Davy admits to be necessary, is impracticable ; and, therefore, that the assertion (grounded on the forementioned experiments, by Chaptal and Van Helmont, namely, that these Earths, Metals and Minerals, are *really and entirely* the products of the vegetative process,) is much more probable ; and I am the more confirmed in this probability, by the following facts, and reasoning upon them :

1st. As oxygen, we know, exists in a solid state, in all its oxids, so it is not impossible that the basis of these oxyds, the metals, and several of the primary earths, may be formed by the vegetative process, as the French Geologist, Chaptal, asserts, " to replace the constant waste that takes place of the crust of the earth, by the rains, streams and rivers."

One hundred pounds of lead, is, I believe, found, by calcination or oxydation, to augment in weight to one hundred and ten pounds, thus absorbing ten pounds of *solid oxygen* from the oxygenous gas of the atmosphere, which can be recovered by deoxydation. Pit Coal contains a great quantity of Hydrogen, most probably in a solid state ; Pot-ash has yielded to Sir Humphrey Davy a metallic button ; and is therefore an oxyd, and also contains oxygen in a solid state.

2d. The Schisti, or Slate Mountains, are said also to be formed by the decomposition of vegetables, and the Coal formations, also, to consist of the residue of vegetables, probably charred by a close heat, and must, therefore, be formed of the carbon and constituent gases of those vegetables. If such dense substances can be thus, in part, compounded of a gaseous substance, there is an equal probability, that the gases separated by the vegetative processes from the air and

water necessary to their nutrition, may compose the Primary Earths, Salts, Minerals and Metallic substances obtained from them by decomposition or incineration; and I think it not improbable that future experiments may prove, that all the primitive earths, metals and mineral substances, are composed of the primary elements, as we are now philosophically bound to consider them, OXYGEN, HYDROGEN, AZOTE, combined in proportions innumerable as those products themselves, and from which variety of proportion they receive their distinctive characteristics. (*See Note 9.*)

This idea is sanctioned by Dr. Thomson in his Atomic Chemistry, entitled "An attempt to establish the first principles of Chemistry." In page 35, vol. 1st, he says, "I am of opinion we are not at present acquainted with any truly simple bodies. All our simple bodies are most probably compounds, and many of them may be afterwards decomposed, and reduced to more simple principles, by the future labours of chemists."

3d. As an important and additional proof that the process of vegetation *certainly* generates and produces one of the most abundant and most dense primary earths in nature, namely, Silex, Siliceous Earth, or, as I shall call it, the sandy principle, I extract the following from the Elements of the Science of Botany, by the celebrated and indefatigable Linnæus:—

"In many parts of the East Indies, there has long been a medicine in high repute, called '*Tabasheer*,' obtained from a substance found in the hollow stem of the Bamboo. It has undergone a chemical examination, and proved to be an earthy substance, principally of a flinty nature; this substance is also found in the

Bamboo in England. In the hot-house of Dr. Pitcairn, in Islington, subsequently to this time, there was found in one of the joints of a Bamboo which grew there, a solid pebble, about the size of a pea. The pebble was of an irregular form, of a dark brown or black internally: it was reddish brown, of a close dull texture, much like some martial siliceous stones. In one corner were shining particles, which appeared to be chrystals, but too minute to be distinguished by the microscope. This substance was so hard as to cut glass. The cuticle or exterior covering of straw, has also a portion of matter in its composition, from which, when burnt, it makes an exquisitely fine powder for giving the last polish to marble, a use to which it has been employed from time immemorial, without the principle being philosophically known. In the great heat in the East Indies, it is not uncommon for large tracts of reeds to be set on fire on their motion by the wind, which I conjecture must arise from the flinty substance of their leaves rubbing against each other. These facts cannot avoid presenting to the mind at one view the boundless laws of nature. While a simple vegetable is secreting the most *volatile and evanescent perfumes*, it also secretes a substance which is an *ingredient in the primeval mountains of the globe.*"

These facts, which have produced the assent of this *Prince of Botanists*, to the formation of a first rate primary earth, by the process of vegetation, are, I think, sufficient proofs, in conjunction with those above stated, that all the primary earths, the metals, and mineral substances, and, of course, all the rocks compounded of them have been originally formed by the processes of vegetation and animalization. (See Note 1,

2, 3
of th
V
been
rine
T
have
and
by
heat
ther
and
pro
fluid
and
gic
ble
that
wer
dua
wat
ano
dea
som
gea
Th
tra
gr
sin
fir
pr
an

2, 3 and 14; and *Vide Note 1, 2d Edition, at the end of this Work.*)

Vast tracts of the interior of the earth, have as above, been shewn to consist of the shells and remains of marine animals.

The Chalk and Lime Stone formations, I trust to have shewn, have also resulted from the same remains; and also, that the Coal formations have been produced by the residue of marine vegetables and a charring heat, as well as the Schisti or Slate Mountains. As, therefore, the proofs narrated in the foregoing pages, and the notes referring to them are, I trust, sufficient to prove that every part of the earth has been formed in a fluid; that many parts are visibly the remains of vegetable and animal decomposition; and that most of the geological bodies are resolvable into the elements of vegetable and animal life; we now arrive at the conclusion, *that the processes of Vegetation, and of Animalization, were the machinery chosen by the FIRST CAUSE for gradually producing, in the course of sufficient ages, in the waters of Genesis, the various generations of vegetable and animal life; which by their growth, decay, their death, decomposition, depositions, and the labours of some species of these animals, have produced all the geological bodies of which our earth is composed.* These bodies, as they were depositing, have been attracted towards the centre of the aqueous globe by the great and universal law of attraction; and before and since the separation, have, by the effects of internal fires, convulsions, or the electric power, acquired their present appearances. (*See Note 5th, to 2d Edition, and Note 11th 1st Edition.*)

Thus, the law of Gravity or attraction would neces-

sarily occasion a vast pressure towards the centre of the aqueous globe, of all the particles of the geological bodies, *as they formed*. The vegetable and animal remains of which they were formed, as stated above, would pass through various stages of fermentation. Heat, inflammable and other gases, would be thereby generated; and these internal fires must have been in operation, pending many of the ages required for the formation of the entire diameter of the Earth in the Waters of Genesis. Hence must have arisen, long before the separation of these waters, not only internal changes in the forms and original composition of the congregated masses of the geological bodies, but also numerous commotions in the interior parts, which have produced probably many of the mountains, and must certainly have produced those depressions on the surface of the earth, which served to form the beds of the original oceans or seas, at the time of the separation of the waters.

These internal fires of the earth, though at first sight they appear to us the effects of accidental causes, will probably be found to be an instance of the designing Wisdom of the Author of Nature. The depositions from the ocean, which, by our theory, have formed the earth, must have been originally deposited in a soft state. By the continued pressure of the subsequent geological particles towards the centre, they would no doubt acquire a degree of solidity, but perhaps the operation of these fires was required, to give them sufficient hardness to resist the powerful action of the rapid motions of the earth. These fires are at the present day, considered by the first geologists to be occasioned by water coming into contact with the metallic basis of the primary earths, by which the water

is decomposed and combustion ensues ; and in this case an absorption of oxygen by these bases must take place and their bulk be greatly increased, and this may have been designed by the Creator for enlarging the bulk of the earth.

The electric agency also, has probably had great influence in these internal changes, both previous to and since the time of the separation : on the subject of the internal and external changes in and on the earth, I refer the reader to the attentive perusal of the Notes, but more especially Notes 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14.

And as it is very remarkable, that no mention is made in the first chapter of Genesis of the creation of any of the *Marine Plants of the Ocean*, I will conclude this part of the subject with an observation on that remarkable circumstance, namely, that it appears to me indicative of the possible truth of the theory I have presumed to offer, that the first verse of Genesis refers to a *preparatory process of the Creation*, totally distinct in its time and nature from the separation of the waters and the primeval appearance of the dry land as recorded in the ensuing verses which took place in the six days, at the separation of the waters recorded in Genesis, 1st chapter.

Because, the creation of the vast body of the marine plants required for the purpose of nutriment for the marine animals of those waters, who, by their death, decay, and depositions formed part of the machinery of the Creator for producing the earth, the creation of those plants having taken place at the beginning, as in the first verse, being the *preparatory process* of the creation, by which the Dry Land was, in subsequent ages, to be produced, there was no need that mention should

be made of *their* creation at the period of the separation, when the land animals and vegetables were brought into being; for, and because, these marine plants were included in the record of the 1st verse, "In the beginning," &c. (*See Notes 7, 10 and 13.*)

I have, since the printing of the 2d edition of this work, had opportunities of reading the most modern Geological publications, and finding therein no cause whatever, to vary from the theory of the earth I had formed, I now proceed in this third Edition to the

ELUCIDATION OF THAT THEORY.

The Mosaic account by the 1st, 2d, 6th, and 7th verses of the 1st chapter of Genesis, shews us that our earth was first created in the waters or universal ocean; and by the 9th and 10th verses, we learn that "the waters under the Heavens were gathered together, and the land made to appear."

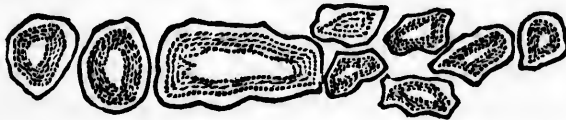
We have shewn that this part of the scriptural account of creation is confirmed by the concurrent observations of the best and most modern Geologists. Indubitable proofs in every part of the crust of the earth, shew it to have been "formed in a fluid;" and I trust the following elucidation of our theory will tend to show that such has been the case through its entire diameter.

By this theory, we account for the formation of the entire diameter and circumference of the earth, by the continued depositions which have taken place in the Oceanic Waters of Genesis from the "beginning," as per 1st verse; which depositions have been formed by the vegetable and animal kingdoms, and by the constant labours of various species of the animals of that uni-

versal ocean, as shewn at full length in the foregoing pages of this work.

In Lee's Elements of Geology, (New York, 1840) page 171, it is said—"The Pacific Ocean abounds in coral to the 30th degree of latitude on each side of the equator; so also do the Arabian and Persian Gulfs. On the east coast of New Holland is a reef, 350 miles in length, and between that country and New Guinea, there is a chain of coral 700 miles long. The Maldivas in the Indian Ocean are coral reefs extending 480 geographical miles north and south. These are circular islets, the largest being 50 miles in diameter, the centre of each being a lagune from fifteen to twenty fathoms deep; and on the outside of each island at the distance of two or three miles, there is a coral reef, immediately outside of which the water is generally more than 150 fathoms deep."

The following cut will serve to illustrate the general shape and formations of these islands:—



These vegetable and animal depositions of the Ocean of Genesis, then, were first attracted to a centre by the universal law of gravitation, and there formed the nucleus or centre of the earth.* This nucleus being

* It may be proper to explain how the primitive races of the vegetable tribes may have been supported before the nucleus was formed. There are many aquatic plants which take no root in the earth at all, but grow and float in the water. There is a species of the Fig-tree in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, which has grown for twelve years, suspended in the air and moistened with water; we have therefore a right to conclude, that if some

continually augmented in bulk by the unceasing depositions of the ocean, until a great depth of the vegetable and animal remains were accumulated, internal heats and fires would be thereby generated, which would last until the combustible matter deposited was consumed. The fires would then cease, until another sufficient depth of fresh depositions took place. The fermentation of these would again produce heat, fire and incandescence, until again the combustible matter last deposited was consumed. The remains after these combustions, would of course be incombustible, and would consist of all the primary earths, sands, clay, lime, magnesia, &c., and of the calces or oxyds of the various metallic and mineral substances contained in the original depositions of matter above stated.

These alternate depositions from the ocean, must have continued to generate these periodic fires, pending the whole time required for the formation of the diameter of the earth, that is until the separation of the "dry land" from the "waters" took place as mentioned Genesis 1st chap. and 9th verse. The depth or thickness of the depositions required to produce each of these periodic fires, it is impossible to form any certain idea of. It may have required many miles of depth of deposits, as they would contain carbonic, sulphureous, oily, gaseous, earthy, saline and metallic matter mixed ;

species of land plants have this power, many of the first created marine plants of the Ocean of Genesis would have it also. In fact, many marine plants of the present seas grow on the rocks, and must consequently derive their nourishment from the water. But it is possible that until the nucleus was formed, the primitive marine animals may have found their nourishment in the waters, for the microscope shews us that every drop of water contains myriads of the insect tribes. We know also that the gills of fish decompose water, by which they would obtain two of the elements of all vegetables—Oxygen and Hydrogen.

but it is well known that it requires but a small depth of vegetable matter alone, being moist, and heated by fermentation, to produce ignition. A common haystack is often fired by the spontaneous ignition of its hydrogen.

Thus, according to this theory, we see that the internal fires of our earth at the present day, at least as far as they have been occasioned by the above original causes, cannot extend to near the centre of the earth ; because the periodic fires above stated, would consume all the inflammable matter, at certain periods after it was deposited : each periodic fire would consume the combustible matter deposited from the ocean since the previous fire ; and after each conflagration, the parts of the earth then formed must have remained in the state of incombustible calces.

This theory will perhaps also account for that singular phenomenon in Geology, of entire genera of marine animals disappearing at different depths in the earth. The incandescence had destroyed these genera, and it was not until the (then) surface of the earth was cooled sufficiently by the waters of the ocean of Genesis, between the times of the periodic fires, that fresh genera of animals could approach it. They then approached it, and, as they terminated the time of their existence, their remains went, with the other depositions, to augment the growth of the earth's bulk, and so on continually, until the separation of the land from the waters.

The reader will here observe, that although by the above causes of the primitive fires having ceased to exist, and the residue of them being matter in a calcified or oxydized form, except indeed, the matter of the last depositions of the ocean of Genesis, (which may be one

of the causes of the present volcanic fires) that therefore, no central fire arising from these primary causes can exist ; yet, we do not mean to deny, that subsequent causes of fire may have, and are perhaps even now taking place.

The electric fluid, as is proved by late discoveries of Sir H. Davy, on the primary earths, of which the oxydated matter of the above conflagrations would mainly consist, is capable of decomposing these primary earths, and water also. It is possible, therefore, combustion might be generated, even in the oxyds to which the original deposits were reduced. Thus, in the opinion of many Geologists, there is a central fire in the earth.

Mr. Lee, in his *Elements of Geology*, page 53, says, "From the result of all the observations hitherto made, we may safely conclude that the temperature of the earth increases as we descend, at the rate of one degree for every eight fathoms, consequently at a depth short of a hundred miles, the materials of the globe are in a state of incandescence."

Now, though I agree that from the cause above assigned, the (electric fluid) internal fires might possibly be regenerated from the oxydated remains of the primordial fires, yet I should conceive these subsequent fires are more likely to be partial than general. I conceive that the intention of the Deity was, by the means of the primordial fires, to prepare and harden the geological bodies, to produce chemical decompositions and recombinations, of numerous useful substances, to increase the cohesion of these geological bodies, to enable them to sustain their rapid and powerful motions in the heavens, to elevate the mountains, to diversify the earth's surface, and give mankind the use of their mi-

neral products ; and I do not conceive these ends would be obtained, were the whole interior of the earth in a state of fusion from a hundred miles below the surface. The increasing heat of the earth as we proceed downwards, can be equally well accounted for by supposing the present fires to be occasioned by the more recent depositions of combustible matter from the oceanic waters of Genesis, which are still in a state of combustion.

And there is one corroborative circumstance of this stated by Archdeacon Paley, in page 388 of his *Theology of Nature*, namely, that "by a comparative calculation with the force of attraction of a rock of Granite, the earth was said to have twice the density of that rock, or about five times that of water," which could not be the case if the earth were nearly all liquid fire ; for, deducting the 100 miles of crust from the diameter of the earth, near 8000, would leave an ocean of fire 7900 miles deep ; an idea so contrary to the ordinary course and wisdom of nature, appears to me preposterous.

I shall now make a few observations on the time that may have been required, according to our theory of deposition from the oceanic waters, to form the whole diameter of the earth.

We have shewn in note 1st, the power of Geometrical progression in two generations of Herrings, and that in twenty years of generation, a mass of matter could be produced, equal to *ten of our globes*, that is, allowing these generations to be undisturbed. Now that must have been the case in the oceanic waters of Genesis. In our seas, immense numbers are annually abstracted from the ocean by the fisheries. Not so in the primeval ocean : there was no abstraction of matter

there whatever. The labours of the Zoophytes and other marine animals we infer, according to the opinion of the modern geologists, have been also "going on in all former ages as at present," and would be another immense source of geological formation.

It has been stated by some geologists, that the sedimentary rocks have taken a million of years in their formation. That is no doubt grounded on the supposition that past volcanic action and convulsion have been the same as at present. I trust however, to have shewn in our theory, that volcanic and convulsive forces must have been immensely greater and more frequent in the primeval ages; and I believe that a million of years ago, if the globe were then in being, there was detritus enough, arising from that volcanic action, to produce a million times the masses of rock, that any "causes now in operation" could do, and am more confirmed in this opinion from the vast difference that must have then existed in the tenacity of the formations, compared with their present state.

Whatever length of period however might have been actually employed, we trust we can give it by our explanation of the 1st verse of Genesis; but we are not of opinion that the laws for the formations of the globe, have required any such immense periods of time as is supposed by some geologists. Their comparative scale of formation, drawn from the present actual formations, is totally inadequate. How, for instance, could the power of deposition of lakes or rivers of the present state of the world, be compared with the mighty force of the oceans of the globe at the time of the separation of the waters of Genesis, rushing over the newly formed earth, with inconceivable impetuosity?

I trust that by the above elucidation, the reader will completely comprehend our theory of the formation of the solid parts of our earth, by the powerful and vital agencies, which we humbly conceive the Deity may have employed to effect this wonderful purpose.

We wish now to make some observations on a most singular production, which we have fallen in with since the publication of the second edition of this work : this is Mr. Mantell's "Wonders of Geology." In page 400, vol. 1st, under the head of Geological Mutations, he says, "I will embody these inductions in a more impressive form, by employing the metaphor of an Arabic writer, and imagining some higher intelligence from another sphere, to describe the physical mutations of which he may be supposed to have taken cognizance from the period when the forests of Portland were flourishing, to the present time. 'Countless ages 'ere man was created' he might say, 'I visited these regions of the earth, and beheld a beautiful country of vast extent, diversified by hill and dale with its rivulets, streams and mighty rivers, flowing through fertile plains ; and palms, ferns and forests of coniferous trees clothed its surface ; and I saw monsters of the reptile tribes, so huge, that nothing among existing races can compare with them, basking on the banks of the rivers and roaming through its forests, while in its fens were sporting thousands of crocodiles and turtles, winged reptiles of strange forms shared with birds the dominion of the air, and the waters teemed with fishes, shells and crustacea ; and after a lapse of many ages, I again revisited the earth, and the country, with its innumerable dragon forms, and its tropical fruits, all had disappeared, and the ocean had usurped their place, and the waters teemed with nautili, ammonites, and the cephalopeda

of races now extinct, and innumerable fishes and marine reptiles; and thousands of centuries rolled by, and I returned, and lo! the ocean was gone, and the dry land had again appeared, and it was covered with groves and forests, but they were wholly different in character from those of the vanished country of the Iguanodon.'"

This very poetical effusion appears indeed every way worthy to be associated with the Arabian Tales. Countless ages, thousands of centuries, and other epochs stated in these "wonders," are tolerably latitudinary periods, even for fairy tales. It is remarkable too, that although the author writes so highly of Dr. Buckland, as a great geologist, he has never mentioned the explanation of the 1st verse of Genesis, which the Doctor has adopted in his Bridgewater Treatise, purposely to account for these great periods of geological mutation. At the same time, Mr. Mantell affects to say, that geology rightly understood, does not confute the scriptures, or at least the purest piety. He at the same time would entirely set aside, as by the above extract, the account given by Moses, that the earth, since the separation of the waters in Genesis, has existed only 5,800 years. Now, if this important part of the Bible is not founded on fact, what arguments would mankind have for believing the remainder? But, fortunately, even these "wonders of geology," cannot effect this. For first, I verily believe that the carboniferous formations offer sufficient evidence that they were produced before the separation in the universal ocean of Genesis; I believe that these immense club mosses, these arborescent ferns* so immensely larger than any of the

* Lee, in his *Elementary Geology*, page 67, says, "in treating on the coal formations, vegetables also which are now mere *herbs*, then attained the size of large trees, as for example, ferns, which though they now attain the height of a few feet at the most, then grew as large as our tallest trees."

present day, were marine; for I can never believe that any difference of climate could make such immense difference in the size of the plants. In examining coal, that is, not including Lignites or brown coal, in any part of the earth, we find no traces of woody fibre, which, had it been formed of terrestrial trees, would probably have been apparent. Coal appears more likely to have been formed of some soft pulpy matter, such as sea-weed, and to have acquired its present appearance by great heat and pressure, and decomposition. This opinion of the marine formation of coal is supported by Mr. Maletrenck.

In Sullivan's View of Nature, letter 38, page 109, Mr. Maletrenck, in treating on the origin of coal, says—
 “But this is a subject which we must examine more closely. Vegetables, as I have said, have been considered as the cause of the formation of pit coal. A few forests, however, buried in the earth, are not sufficient to form the masses of coals which exist in its bowels. A *greater cause*, more proportioned to the magnitude of the effect is required, and we find it only *in that prodigious quantity of vegetable matter which grows in the seas*, and is increased by the immense masses which are carried down by the rivers; these masses are agitated and broken down by the waves, and afterwards covered by argillaceous or calcareous earth, and are decomposed. Nor is it more difficult to conceive how these masses of marine and other vegetables may form the greater part of the coal, than that shells should form the greater part of the globe. The direct proofs in support of this theory are the presence of aquatic and marine substances. The soils which contain coal are generally of schistus and grit; and as the formation of pyrites, as

well as that of coal, comes from the decomposition of vegetable and animal substances, (for sulphur has been proved to exist naturally in vegetables and animals) all pit coal is more or less pyritous, so that we may consider pit coal as a mixture of pyrites, schistus, and bitumen."

Mr. Maletrenck thus supports our idea of the origin of coal in the secondary formations. I have to add as a further support of this theory, that all coal contains ammonia or its elements. Now terrestrial trees or vegetables will not account for this ingredient of coal. We know, moreover, that the remains of immense masses of animals must have been deposited in the oceans. The remains of whales, sharks, salmon, and all other fish, many species of which I believe are seldom found in the earth fossilized, must have been deposited somewhere in the ocean, and it appears probable that coal has derived its ammonia from these sources. At all events terrestrial vegetables alone will not account for it, for they do not afford one of its elements, azote.

But whether time and further observation will prove these opinions correct or not, still the story of the "beautiful country of the Iguanodon" can be accounted for, without overthrowing the narration of Moses. Volcanic action as I have shewn above, must have been immensely more active before the separation, and pending the subaqueous formation of the earth in the ocean of Genesis, than at present. It is possible therefore, that some mountainous countries may have been elevated above the surface of the waters long previous to the separation of the entire "dry land of Genesis," and that these mountainous countries may have been tenanted by these reptile tribes, and covered by these

immense palms, coniferous ferns, club mosses, fine rivers, lakes, &c. for many ages previous to the separation, when the great bulk of the land was made to "appear," and thus the Mosaic account will be yet maintained in its integrity, notwithstanding the existence of the beautiful country of the "Iguanodon."

In the preceding system of the Creation which I have ventured to form, and to which I was determined, as observed above, on reading the ideas stated by Archdeacon Paley to have been promulgated to the world by Buffon and other philosophers, I have made some remarks on the assertion, or supposition of Buffon, that the globe we inhabit was formed by the stroke of a comet knocking off from the Sun, (as stated by Paley) a piece of molten glass, and I trust to have shewn the great improbability and absurdity of this. Such a supposition would lead us to believe, that the creation of our planetary system was not the gift of an all bountiful Creator, but merely the effect of chance; and if I have proceeded to any severe reflections on its irreligious tendency, I trust I am warranted therein, by the opinions given by Paley, of this doctrine being founded on Atheistical principles; that is, if I understand it, denying the agency of a Supreme Ruler of the Universe in the Works of nature.

An opinion so contrary to all our natural feelings of religion, it appeared to me, the duty of every man to refute, whose understanding should dictate to him the errors of such a system—and I hope to have shewn, that, as it is completely unsatisfactory to the mind of man, in the highest state of its acquirements—so it never can be productive of general assent; and in the following compendium of my Theory of the Sun's For-

mation, I shall re-advert to the above supposition of Buffon.

THEORY OF THE SUN'S FORMATION.

As the great discoveries in Pneumatic Chemistry, made during the last 50 or 60 years, may not be known to many of my readers, I here subjoin a short account of them. About the beginning of that period, Mr. Black, of Edinburgh, first discovered that the change of lime-stone into lime, by burning, was nothing more than the extrication of its carbonic acid gas from the lime-stone by the heat employed. This discovery excited the attention of chemical philosophers to æriform bodies; and Mr. Black's name will be venerable as long as the science is cultivated. A few years afterwards, Mr. Cavendish discovered the highly important fact, that water was composed of the bases of the two gases oxygen and hydrogen, which was further proved by the experiments of Dr. Priestly, and the exact composition of water was finally confirmed by the accurate analysis of Lavoisier and other French Chemists, who having decomposed the water into its elementary gases, reproduced it by the ignition of the same gases; and finding by repeated experiments, the weight of the water always equal to the gases produced, and vice versa that the gases employed to form the water, always produced an equal weight of it. Subsequent chemists have verified these results, and it is now universally allowed, that all water consists of one part of hydrogen, and eight parts of oxygen by weight.

Our atmosphere has been found to be composed of eighty parts of mephitic or azotic gas, and of twenty parts of oxygen gas. These three gases, oxygen, hydrogen and azote, which may be called primary, have

since been discovered by chemists in almost every part of the vegetable, animal and mineral kingdoms, in which also a great variety of compound gases are discovered every year.

I now proceed, with due humility, to present to the reader, a compendium of the ideas stated in page 33 on the Sun's Formation at the time the primordial waters of Genesis were created, according to the construction I have put on the 1st verse of 1st chapter of Genesis, by the combustion of hydrogen or oxygen, or other combustible gases, created by the first cause, as stated in page 33 of this work. I have presumed that those gases were ignited by the electric fluid, by the blaze of comets, or other igneous bodies, and that the extrication of the light and heat, formed by the combustion of these gases, in order to produce the formation of the aqueous globe, destined thereafter to originate the earth and the other planets of our system, that the light and heat so extricated, has formed the body of our sun which forms the centre of the system, by the laws of *His gravity and attraction*.

If I recollect right, heat and light have not as yet been discovered to have weight ;* but our means of ascertaining this by experiment in the usual way, is very dubious. The bulk of a grain of heat or light may, perhaps, be sufficient to fill a house ; therefore, we could, perhaps, not ascertain the fact ; but heat and light are certainly sensible bodies, and therefore must have weight. Heat expands and increases the dimensions of the hardest bodies in an astonishing manner. Light is said to travel from the sun at the rate of twelve millions of miles a minute, and also penetrates the most

* See Note 2d to 2d Edition at the end of this work.

dense substances. Although, therefore, the weight of these subtle agents be infinitely less than any other bodies we know of, they are, probably, subject to the same laws of attraction and gravity.

We may, therefore, conceive that the heat and light extricated from the combustion of these æriform substances, in the formation of the primordial waters, would unite and ascend, by the laws of their gravity and attraction, or by an original impulse of the Creator,* to their position in the regions of infinite space, and form there the body of our sun, and that the planets, as they were formed, and were projected by the projectile force, became subject to its attractive influences.

Whether this attraction be effected by an inherent power of the sun, or, that it may be owing in part to the influence of the vast stream of æriform substance, passing towards him, to supply him with fuel, I shall presently consider. I shall however, previously, make some remarks in addition to those offered above, on the idea of Buffon, of molten glass having formed our earth and the planets of our system.

It is, I consider, impossible to conceive that glass could exist in the stupendous heat of the sun's fire.

*As Light is known to exist in two separate states, namely, latent and active; and as we are told in the 3d verse of Genesis, "Darkness was on the face of the deep," it is probable the light evolved in the combustion of the gases was diffused through the regions of space in its latent form, and was not elicited into its active and visible state until the time of the 3d verse; and it is remarkable that the first operation of Deity at the time of the separation was the evolution of light in its active and visible state, and the collection of it into one vast focus, the sun of our system, as by the 4th verse. And I am happy to think that our theory of the formation of light by the combustion of the gases, will serve to remove a frequent objection to the Mosaic account, namely, the existence of light before the sun is said to be formed in 1st chap. Genesis.

Glass is formed in our planet of siliceous earth and pot-ash. The former we have before proved, on the authority of Linnæus, to be composed by the vegetable process; its parts are, therefore, formed of the gases which the vegetable extracts from the water and air it imbibes for its nutrition. The latter (pot-ash) has also yielded to Sir H. Davy a metallic button. It is therefore an oxyd, and must contain much oxygen. Siliceous earth and pot-ash, the component parts of glass, are then mostly composed of æriform substance. We know that the diamond, which is probably much more dense than siliceous earth, has been volatilized in part by burning lenses, or by streams of oxygen gas in a state of ignition. What can these heats be in comparison to the sun's fire? perhaps as an atom to a world.

I trust, therefore, it is more consistent with the sacred documents we have had handed down to us by our religion; with the operations of nature, we are enabled to examine; with the admirable simplicity and order of the laws by which the First Cause has directed the operations of that nature, to believe, *that having first formed the principles which, in the present state of our knowledge, we must call elementary*, He proceeded by the combination of these principles, by combustion, to form the waters which were destined thereafter to produce our earth and planets.

It is indeed possible, that these elements—Oxygen, Hydrogen and Azote, may be compounded of other final elements of much greater energy than themselves, but the rules of science forbid us to consider *that* as the fact, until we have found it by experiment. We have, therefore, only to carry our knowledge of these

principles into our reflections on the construction of our system, and with humility, praise and adoration, to conceive, that as most, or all, the geological bodies we have analyzed, are found to consist of these principles, they may have been those with which the First Cause, with amazing skill and effect, has operated the wonderful system of Creation He hath bestowed on us.

In the contemplation of this Creation, and of the recent discoveries in pneumatic chemistry, I trust to have shown the possibility that our sun may have been formed, at the time of the formation of the primordial waters of Genesis ; and as before stated, I have considered the other planets of our system, and their moons, to have been formed in the same manner, at the time when, by the creative mandate, the combustion of the gases took place, and which I consider to be meant and recorded by the 1st verse of 1st chap. of Genesis. So I likewise conceive that our sun was formed at the same time, by the vast body of heat and light disengaged by the stupendous combustion, and that having found his position in the regions of infinite space, according to the laws of his nature, he exerted his attractive influences on the planets of our system, of which he became the centre.

We have now to consider by what laws the vast waste of the heat and light of the Sun is replenished ; and, as our conceptions thereon will be found in some degree at variance with the hitherto received ideas of the nature of the spaces between the sun and planets, and the regions of infinite space, and bear also considerably on the nature of the sun's influence on those planets, we shall first make some observations on the

ATTRACTION OF MATTER.

It is said by philosophers, that all bodies are attracted to the earth's centre: all bodies thrown into the air from the earth, descend to the earth's surface when the propelling force is spent, and when the body is arrested by the atmosphere through which it passes. It is said by Paley, page 449 of his *Natural Theology*, that "One principle of gravitation causes a stone to drop towards the earth, and the moon to whirl round it; one law of attraction carries all the different planets round the sun." This, he says, philosophers demonstrate; and at page 388, he adds—"Calculations were made some years ago, of the mean density of the earth, by comparing the force of its attraction with the force of the attraction of a rock of granite, the bulk of which could be ascertained, and the upshot of the calculation was, that the earth, upon an average through its whole sphere, was twice the density of granite, or about five times that of water."

Now, respecting the principle of attraction, I have to remark, that in chemistry we know with certainty, that particles of matter have a mutual and elective attraction called affinity. When an acid is united with a metal into a neutral salt by this attraction, it may be separated from it by any substance with which the acid or its particles have a greater affinity. Thus, if iron, or its oxyds, be dissolved in sulphuric acid, it forms green vitriol, commonly called copperas; but by adding an alkali to the solution, the iron precipitates, and a neutral salt is formed of the sulphuric acid and the alkali.

In a lake or pond in the isle of Anglesea, in Wales, the water holds blue vitriol or copperas in solution,

which is a salt composed of copper and the sulphuric acid.

When iron hoops are thrown into the pond or lake, they become covered with copper scales, which is scraped off, and found to be the purest copper in nature. This decomposition of the blue vitriol takes place because the particles of iron have a greater affinity or elective attraction for the sulphuric acid than the copper has.

The load stone is well known to attract iron, even in a cold state. Pieces of iron rubbed with the load stone, become also magnetic; two pieces of wood, or cordage and wood, and probably many other substances, by friction to a great degree, take fire; that is to say, they become raised to that degree of temperature by that friction, that their particles attract the oxygen from the azotic gas, and from the light and heat with which they are combined in our atmosphere. Certain stones also, as flints, being struck against iron or steel, heat the particles of the steel so as to calcine them; that is, they bring these particles to the temperature at which they *also* decompose the oxygen gas of the atmosphere, and disengage its latent light and heat.

Thus the attraction of matter is certainly proved by Chemistry.

But how is the attraction of large and solid bodies proved in the usual temperature of the atmosphere, as in the case of the block of granite mentioned by Paley? One rock of granite placed alongside another, will evince no attraction. It is said, indeed that some islands, having much iron ore, have attracted a vessel from her course, which, if it be the fact, may perhaps also prove the attraction of matter of a certain descrip-

tion ; but I know no other way by which the attraction or density of the rock of granite could be proved, but by breaking it by some other body, and ascertaining the weight of the stroke, thus : if a hundred weight of granite required a stroke of a certain number of pounds to break it, and a rock of some other species required only a force of half that number, its attraction or density might be said to be half that of the granite. Thus far, then, attraction would be proved by Chemistry and Geology also.

But, that the Creator originally fixed some such law as attraction, for the cohesion of the particles of matter, appears highly reasonable ; else, how should the earth and planets, travelling at such an immense rate in their orbits, be retained in their present forms, notwithstanding the power of such velocity of motion ?

A ball of snow, when impelled by the force of the arm, if it be not rendered sufficiently dense by compression, separates into innumerable parts, and it must have been the same with the earth and the planets but for some law of attraction or cohesion, to resist the attrition of their rapid motion through the heavens.

This attraction then of the particles of matter, seems to be indispensable to their existence as spheres ; but the attraction of these for each other, though generally agreed to by the philosophers, appears more dubious and uncertain.

This doubt is supported by their immense distances, which may, indeed, be founded on a crude idea, and the doubt may perhaps be dissipated on further consideration.

The moon is observed in its approach, to occasion

high risings or tides of the waters of the earth, which recede on its retiring. This, it seems to me, is an almost incontrovertible proof, that the atmosphere (for storms are often generated at the same approach of the moon) and waters of the earth and seas, are attracted by the moon. If the moon has this power, we may reasonably conclude that other planets have this power also, governed by certain laws of distance and dimension.

Now, as to the manner in which the sun exerts his attractive influence on the earth and the other planets. His attraction is said, by philosophers, to be the cause why the earth and planets, having been originally projected in a right line, do not move in that right line, but in their respective orbits round the sun.

As to the opinions of these philosophers, of the nature of the sun's substance, I am not aware, except as above stated by Paley, that Buffon supposes it to consist of molten glass. I trust to have shewn in the foregoing pages the improbability of this, and that it is more probable to be a body of light and heat. His density, in that case, cannot be equal, bulk for bulk, to the density of the planets, which are with reason considered to be inhabited, and must probably be formed of solid matter. But as to the nature of the sun's substance, I confess I cannot conceive it possible that a body of such inconceivable heat, should consist of any thing else than gaseous substance. We know of nothing here below that can produce light and heat with more intensity, than the decomposition of oxygen gas. Why should we not reason by analogy, that the light and heat of the sun are produced by the same means? All the other means we have of producing

heat by burning glasses, or by friction, are derived from the sun; and nothing is more remarkable in nature, in her general principles, than uniformity of means. The principle of gravity is said to be the same in an apple falling to the ground, as in the motions of the heavenly bodies.

Is it not then impossible to conceive that in the sun's heat, solid or liquid substances could exist! The diamond is volatilized into vapours, and if I recollect right, the perfect metals also, by the galvanic power. It has indeed been supposed by some, that the sun may be habitable—that the heat of the particles of light is owing to their friction or attrition, in their passage to the planets. This idea of no heat in the sun, arose in part from the existence of ice and snow on high mountains in the torrid zone, which is now thoroughly explained from terrestrial causes, by Lambin, De Lui, Bougan and De Saussure.

By such a supposition, we should be forced to conclude that the planets farthest off from the sun, were the most warm, which I imagine is totally contrary to probability, to the opinions of the greatest philosophers, and to the evidence of our own senses in the planet which we inhabit.

“A fact well known,” says De Saussure, “and which proves strongly to my mind that the action of the solar rays, (considered in themselves, and independent of all exterior causes of cold,) is as great on the tops of mountains as in the level country, is, that the force of a lens is the same at all heights. I am therefore convinced with Bougan,” continues he, “that the principal reason of the cold which reigns on the tops of mountains is, that they are always surrounded and covered

by an air that is invariably cold, and that that air is cold because it cannot be greatly heated, neither by the rays of the sun, in consequence of the transparency of this air, nor by the surface of the earth, on account of its distance from that surface."

Now, but for the idea which has hitherto been adopted, that the regions of infinite space, or at least the spaces in which our sun and planets move, are in a state of *vacuum*; but for this idea, I should say that the sun is a mass of burning æriform substance, such as hydrogen gas, or some mixture thereof, which has the power of decomposing oxygen gas, and of throwing off its light and heat. The union of the bases of these gases, oxygen and hydrogen, would form water in the state of vapour, which would either be driven off into the heavens, and be in future decomposed, as happens in our atmosphere, by the electric fluid, or be otherwise condensed into aqueous globes, for the future formation of other heavenly bodies. (*See Note 12.*)

I shall now offer some observations on the above idea of the philosophers, on the existence of a vacuum in the spaces through which the planets move.

If we consider the projectile force to have been *ab origine* given to the planets by the Creator, we may suppose that this force was greater than what would have been required to produce their motions round the sun, if a vacuum had existed, as thus: allowing the spaces between the planets and the sun to be filled with an æriform substance of vast tenuity, (and indeed that such immense spaces should consist of vacuum is nearly incredible) yet it would still be possible that this æriform substance *should not impede* the motions of the planets; because, on the above supposition, the projec-

tile force would have been made so much *greater* than would have been required for moving these planets through a *vacuum only*, as the resistance of this æriform substance should render necessary to overcome that resistance by the projectile force.

Again, the force of the attraction of the sun, allowing its substance to be æriform, and that such immense streams of gases were continually pouring into it, as would be required to support its combustion, we shall find the force of this attraction (hitherto so called) must be greatly increased ; for, in addition to its own proper attraction, as a body of heat, light and æriform vapour, we shall perhaps find reason to conclude that this attraction must be greatly augmented by the vast streams of æriform substance, continually passing towards the centre of the sun, for supplying its combustion and repairing the vast waste of its light and heat.

A small fire in a stove is sufficient to draw to it a strong current of air to support its combustion.

The power of currents of air on the earth and seas is well known to upset ships, trees and houses.

The power of steam, also, will come under the same comparison ; and according to its quantity, will raise almost any weight.

What then must be the effect and power of such inconceivable streams of gaseous substance, rushing through the heavens, as must be required to supply fuel for the sun ? And it appears to me the power of the sun, to attract the planets at such immense distances, is hereby the more satisfactorily accounted for, as *they* are to be supposed solid spheres ; while, as I have presumed by my theory of the sun, *his substance* must be æriform, and of course, of much less density, bulk

for bulk, than the planets. If, then, we should adopt the idea that the heavenly bodies *do not* float in a vacuum, but should accede to the probability that the intervening spaces are filled up with an æriform fluid, for the purpose of supplying fuel to the sun's fire, I humbly conceive we shall have found a satisfactory way of accounting for the influence of the moon on our seas and atmosphere. If the fact be certain, that the waters rise as the moon approaches the earth, and recede as she retires from it, may not this phenomenon arise from the pressure exerted on the æriform matter above mentioned by the moon, on its approach to the earth, which pressure, at length reaching our atmosphere, presses on *it* also, and thereby on the waters of the ocean, causing them to rise and fall proportionably, and to occasion the Spring, Neap and daily Tides?

Should we not also have, by the same theory, a plain and simple way of accounting for the great principle of attraction in the heavenly bodies? That, by a power similar to that which propels bodies forward on the earth, seas and atmosphere, namely, the wind; so the heavenly bodies are propelled from their right line, and driven round their central sun by this mighty current of æriform gases in their courses towards the sun. (*See Note 6th to the 2d Edition at the end of the Book.*)

Allowing the projectile force, (by which I understand Sir Isaac Newton to have meant the primary projectile force directly given to the heavenly bodies by their Creator) and the attractive force of the sun, to be the causes of the, nearly, circular motions of the planets, still it appears to me clear, that this projectile

force must be something very different from the species of impelling force which Paley, in his "Natural Theology," speaks of in page 390 of that work. "If it were possible," he says, "to fire off a cannon-ball with the velocity of five miles a second, and the resistance of the air could be taken away, the cannon-ball would for ever wheel round the earth, instead of falling down to it." Now, if the ball were fired off in a direction due north, it is evident that in the course of the circle it would form, it must return by the south pole to the place it was fired from, to north; and therefore, in every revolution, it would return in an exactly opposite direction to where it was fired off from; the force therefore by which it returns, could not be the force of firing off, because it returns in a line directly opposite to that force. (*See Note 8.*)

I therefore conceive the projectile force, impressed by the first cause on the heavenly bodies, is of an entirely different nature from the projectile force of a cannon-ball.

May it not rather be something in the nature of the force of the current of gases I have mentioned, as forcing the planets into their rotatory motion round the sun?

May not the projectile force partake of the nature of electricity?

Referring to what we have said above, as to the means by which the waste of the sun's light and heat is replenished, we shall now make some observations on a very important sentence as to this subject, contained in "Paley's Evidences of Natural Religion," page 392.

On the subject of the cause of the attraction of the

planets by the sun, he there says—"Nor shall we find less difficulty in conceiving a conflux of particles incessantly flowing to a centre, and carrying down all bodies along with it—that centre being itself in rapid motion through absolute space; for, by what source is the stream fed, or what becomes of the accumulation?"

The principal objection of Paley then, to the idea of a fluid or æriform substance existing in the spaces between the sun and the planets, and between each of themselves, is contained in his question—"By what source is the stream fed, or what becomes of the accumulation?"

If we allow, however, that the sun is a body in a state of constant combustion, and that its ignition is supported in the same manner as terrestrial fires, (and without allowing this we cannot, according to our knowledge of combustion, conceive how the fire of the sun is continued,) we shall meet with no difficulty in finding "by what source the stream is fed."

The spaces between the sun and planets, and also the regions of infinite space, if they be allowed to contain æriform fluids. whether these be oxygen and hydrogen gases, or a mixture of these or of other inflammable gases, these inconceivable extents of space would certainly contain sufficient fuel to supply not only our sun, but probably all the suns of the other systems that may exist.

It is, I think, proved above, that resisting *media* may be contained in the planetary spaces, without destroying the planetary motions. Hydrogen gas being fourteen times lighter than atmospheric air, and being very combustible, that is, easily uniting with oxygen, and thus setting free its latent heat and light, may therefore

be supposed to form a great proportion of these æri-
form *media*. (See Note 12.)

In fact, as we know of no such thing as a vacuum in any part of nature around us, it seems difficult to conceive that the vast spaces between the heavenly bodies are in that state, and this has no doubt suggested to the ancients the idea of the *abhorrence of nature of a vacuum*. (See Note 6th to 2d Edition at the end of this Work.)

By what means then, a sufficient quantity of this æriform fluid can be found is, I trust, evident; and the question of the Archdeacon, "By what source is the stream fed," is answered. And the end to which the stream is applied, namely, the support of the sun's waste by combustion, will also answer the other question, "What becomes of the accumulation?" I answer, *It is consumed by the sun's fire*.

If the *media* then, of the planetary and infinite spaces may be supposed to consist of hydrogen, oxygen, or other inflammable gases, or a mixture of these, the hydrogen and the oxygen gases being drawn into the sun, would be immediately decomposed, giving out their latent light and heat for the supply and restoration of the immense waste of these elements which must take place by the emission of their rays from the sun. Water would thus be formed in the state of vapour, which would probably be driven off into the heavens by its own elasticity, or carried off by the attraction of comets, and there condensed into globes of water, destined thereafter to form new planets or worlds, like those of our own system, and evincing the unceasing tendency of nature, in obedience to laws by which it is endowed by the Creator, to give life and enjoyment to

countless myriads of beings, on which novel subject I shall treat in the sequel. (*See Note 17.*)

If the fact be founded, that the attraction of a planet is formed by the attraction of its parts, and that therefore the power of its attraction is in proportion to the density of the planet; then, if we allow the sun to be a body of æriform matter in combustion, its attraction must be much less in proportion to its bulk, than the attraction of each of the solid planets—although its greater bulk may compensate for its inferior density; but the current of æriform fluids which, to use Paley's words, "would be powerful enough to carry bodies down with great force towards a centre," will it not also account in whole or in part, for the attraction the sun exerts on the planets? As to these fluids being, as he says in another place, "powerless with respect to the motions which result from the projectile impulse," I trust I have explained before, that the resisting force of these æriform fluids may have been counteracted by an additional power having been given to the projectile force to overcome that resistance; whereby it has happened, as he says again in page 393, "that resistance has had no sensible effect on the moon's motion for two thousand five hundred years," and, I may add further, that these fluids *never* can have any such effect; and I trust to explain this more fully hereafter.

We now recur to Paley's observation in page 388 of his "Theology of Nature," that "by a comparative calculation with the force of attraction of a rock of granite, the earth was said to have twice the density of that rock, or about five times that of water."

Has the mode of ascertaining the force of this attraction of the earth been grounded on the supposed force

of the attraction of the sun on the earth and planets? Has the earth's attraction in the above experiment been come at by calculating its proportionate bulk to that of the sun, and assigning it therefrom its proportionate attraction? If so, and it should be conceded that the theory I have ventured to propose, of the sun's power of attraction being created or increased by the streams of æriform fluid passing towards his centre, to supply him with fuel—if this theory be correctly founded in nature, it is evident the above experiment in the attraction of the earth cannot be correct in its results. The force of attraction of a body is composed of the united attraction of its parts; but if the sun's density has hitherto been considered by philosophers to be according to his powers of attraction, and it should be agreed to that the streams of æriform fluid have a great influence in producing that attraction, the density of the sun must, in this case, be much less than it has hitherto been estimated at, and of course the density of the earth also, if it has been grounded on this supposed density of the sun.

I now conclude the theory of the sun's formation by some observations on the following extract from Paley's *Work*, page 380. Speaking of the intervening spaces between the planets, he says that "the intervals between them are made devoid of any inert matter, either fluid or solid, because such an intervening substance would, by its resistance, destroy those very motions which attraction is employed to preserve."

I have before endeavoured to shew that there may be such æriform substances existing in these spaces, which would indeed resist these motions of the planets, but that this resistance is sufficient only to diminish

the velocity of these motions. To explain this more fully:—May not the moon have been originally projected by the Creating cause to move in its orbit or course at the rate of three thousand two hundred and seventy miles per hour? and, supposing the resistance of the *media* or æriform fluids of my theory to be equal to one thousand miles per hour, this resistance would only diminish the rate of the moon's motion to two thousand two hundred and seventy miles per hour, which is the actual rate she is said to travel in her course round the earth. (*See Note 5.*)

In fine, the theory of the sun's being replenished with fuel by means of æriform fluids, is supported by another observation of Paley's. In page 350 of the above work, he says—"The light and heat of the sun follow the same laws, and, to us, appear nowise different from the light of a candle and the heat of a coal fire." Why, then, may not this heat and light of the sun be supplied in the same manner as that of the candle and coal fire?

In our planet, this heat is now known to be produced by the decomposition of oxygen gas by those combustible bodies, and the consequent extrication of its latent light and heat; but if the light and heat of the sun be generated by the same laws, and, as there is probably some physical cause for the attraction of the planets by the sun—as it is possible his great magnitude would not require less than the spaces between him and the planets, and between each of them, to supply the æriform fluid for his combustion—and as this amazing current must have a great physical influence on the motion of those planets round their central Sun, and may therefore throw additional light on the great

principle of his attraction—I therefore humbly submit the foregoing Theory of the Sun's Formation, and the means of supplying the waste of his combustion, to the scrutiny of a candid and enlightened world: and being sensible of my incompetence in respect of that profound degree of scientific knowledge required in the attempt I have made to reconcile and explain the account of the Creation, handed down to us by our religion, with the great discoveries in the sciences of Geology, Chemistry and Pneumatics, I have only to hope I may, at all events, have exalted the *utility* of these sciences by shewing their tendency and power to diminish or quiet the doubts of scepticism, and to open greater sources of our admiration of the goodness, power, wisdom and glory of the Great First Cause.—
(*See concluding Note.*)

Having now presented to the public the theory of the sun's formation, arising, as I conceive, naturally, from the stupendous quantity of light and heat which must have evolved from the combustion of the gases required for the formation of the ocean of Genesis, and having therein given my ideas on the manner in which the waste of the sun's light and heat may be replenished, I purpose now to make a few observations on the opinion stated by Dr. Herschell as to the opacity of the sun, and also of the spots which are found on, or adjacent to, his surface.

Sharon Turner, in his Sacred History, page 46, vol. 1st, says—"Of the actual substance of the sun, so little satisfactory to our judgment has been discovered, that all which is mentioned concerning it, can rank no higher than conjectures more or less plausible. Dr. Herschell thought his body to be opaque with an upper

stratum of black luminous clouds. Black spots of varying magnitude and form are continually appearing upon it and receding;" and in a Note from La Place, page 20, it is said—"Dr. Herschell has inferred that what he deems the sun's luminous atmosphere, is 2,500 miles from its surface."

The preface to Sharon Turner's Work is dated 1832. The first edition of mine was published in 1836;—his observations as to the substance of the sun could not, therefore, include it; and I shall now make one final observation in support of the probability of my system, namely, that it is, I conceive, highly probable, the Deity would convert the stupendous quantity of heat and light which must have been extricated from the combustion of the gases of which the oceanic waters are formed, to some great purpose. The fabric of the sun thereby, was it not the most prominent and necessary one he could have applied it to?

Now, respecting Dr. Herschell's opinion as to the opaqueness of the sun, as I am well aware of the exalted talents of that philosopher, and equally conscious of my own want of scientific knowledge to cope with them, I must leave the decision on the validity of my theory of the sun to men of scientific acquirements, should it meet their eye; and in that case, I beg to submit to them, should they agree to that validity, two questions:—

1st. The luminous atmosphere of Doctor Herschell being, as he says, 2,500 miles from the sun, will it not be accounted for by the vast bodies of Hydrogen and oxygen gases which I have supposed, by their combustion, to serve as alimentary fuel for the sun? Also—the spots on the sun's surface, or, as some say, adjacent thereto, may they not be accounted

for by the above said cause, from the denser volume of aqueous vapour which must be produced by this vast combustion of hydrogen? The combustible gases would probably be ignited at the distance mentioned, (2,500 miles from the sun) and no doubt they would prove luminous enough.

2d. If, as it has been lately suggested, our atmospheric heat is produced by the sun's rays operating on a calorific medium, can we allow this heat to be produced by any other means than by abstraction from that medium?

Heat is undoubtedly a material substance, and from whencesoever it is abstracted by the sun's rays, and carried off, must not a corresponding degree of cold be produced? and must not the whole extent of the space between the earth and sun become continually more and more refrigerated, unless some means are found for replenishing this waste of heat? and this we humbly conceive, our theory of the sun will do.

I wish here to reply to a suggestion on our theory, by a person of some scientific acquirements. This was an idea that the gases (which in the above theory we conceive to be employed in supplying the waste of the sun's light and heat) might be ignited before arriving at the sun's atmosphere, and thereby endanger the planets. This person however, observed, that as Sir Humphrey Davy's safety lamp precluded any bad effects in mines, nature may have prepared some contrivance to ensure safety in the regions of space. The observation was judicious; for if the science of feeble man can counteract the evil on earth, how much more easily can the power do so who rules the heavens! In fact it is not difficult to conceive an effective mode

which may be employed by nature to ensure the safety required. Neither oxygen gas, nor hydrogen gas, are inflammable *per se*, that is when not in contact with each other; and it is easy to conceive that each species of gas may come from opposite points of the regions of space. Oxygen may come from the parts of the heavens above the sun; hydrogen from those parts which are below it—and thus, both streams never meet, till they enter their centre of attraction, the atmosphere or the body of the sun; by which means no ignition whatever could take place, until they arrived there. Moreover, there is hardly a doubt, the tails of comets consist of inflammable gaseous matter; and these bodies traverse the regions of space perhaps in all directions, without injury to the planetary bodies.

I now present to the reader a short outline of Sir Richard Phillips' Theory of the cause of the motions of the heavenly bodies, taken from a work called "Wonders of the Heavens," Lecture 2d, page 30, printed for Richard Phillips, London. I make this extract as presenting a singular sanction of our theory, of the existence of a gaseous medium in the regions of space; but do not agree with him in rejecting the Newtonian principle of gravity and attraction, and refer our readers to our observations thereon in the introduction to this edition.

"About 100 years passed from the discovery of the theory of gravitation, without any remarkable addition to it, till the year 1818, when Sir Richard Phillips, in some essays on the proximate causes of the phenomena of the universe, impeached the entire theory founded on the simultaneous existence of universal gravitation, projectile force, and an alledged *vacuum* in space.

This writer has shewn that Hook's Law of Gravity, which Newton so fortunately applied, is not a universal law, but a law created locally by the transfer of motion through any medium, such as the medium of space, and that the motions of nature, necessarily propagated according to that law, are, in truth, the cause of all the phenomena which heretofore had been ascribed to the occult and unintelligible principles of attraction and gravitation. Hence, as the law called the law of gravity, which Newton applied to the problems of his *Principia*, is proved not to be universal, and not an innate property, but an accident of matter, so there no longer exists any occasion for the projectile force with which Newton endowed the planets to prevent their falling into the sun; nor was it any longer necessary to extinguish the medium, which it may be supposed is co-existent with space, for the purpose of conferring perpetuity on the projectile force.

He considered all matter as the possible parent of motion, and motion as power, and then proceeded to show, that all bodies on the earth are the parents of its motions, and that its motions are competent to produce all the phenomena which we witness on earth; that weight or gravity is the mere effect of motion, or a tendency to move by the transferred impetus of the earth's motions; in fine, that twofold motions are powers of aggregation in all planets; and that these motions, or that of the *sun*, propagated through the *medium of space*, diverge as the square of the distance, and act with the same precision through an elastic medium, as *a lever of iron*. He shewed also, that the fall of bodies to the earth, ascribed to terrestrial gravitation, is a necessary result of the twofold motions of the earth, and

that all the phenomena heretofore explained, by a principle which, considered as universal, led to many false analogies, are mere results of motions, or accidents of matter, altogether local and mechanical

The philosophy of material phenomena promulgated by Sir Richard Phillips, teaches that the universe consists of extension of matter under various expansive gaseous, fluid, and fixed forms of body, proceeding in relative density from the rarest and most extended fluid media, to the most condensed aggregate of fixed atoms.

“In fine,” says Sir Richard Phillips, “motions of matter, subject to regular mechanical laws, acting absolutely or subordinately, generally or locally, on aggregates or atoms, and producing various densities, and different degrees of locomotion, and affinity, in atoms of matter, of different constituent forms, are the proximate causes of all phenomena ; and as one series of phenomena depends on another, so all existing phenomena are, in regard to others, physically fit, compatible and harmonious ; and as matter cannot originate its own motion, so in considering motion as the proximate cause of all phenomena, we arrive, through the ascending series, at the necessary and sublime First Cause of all motion and all phenomena.”* *Page 35.*

The next sanction of our theory of the existence of gaseous matter in the Sun’s atmosphere, we take from Sir John Herschell’s *Astronomy* of last year, *page 407, chap. 12.*

“We shall conclude this chapter by the mention of a phenomenon which seems to indicate the existence of some slight degree of nebulosity about the Sun itself,

* It being thought by some that Sir Richard Phillips’ Theory was of Atheistical tendency, I have extracted the foregoing paragraph to show the reverse.

and even to place it in the list of nebulous Stars. It is called the Zodiacal light; and may be seen any very clear evening soon after sunset, about the month of April or May, or, at the opposite season of the year, before sunrise, as a cone or lenticular shaped light, extending from the horizon, obliquely upwards, and following generally the course of the ecliptic, or rather that of the Sun's equator. The apparent angular distance of its orbit from the sun varies according to circumstances from 40° to 90° , and the breadth of its base perpendicular to its axis from 8° to 30° . It is extremely faint and ill defined, at least, in this climate, though better seen in tropical regions.

It cannot be mistaken for any atmospherical meteor or Aurora Borealis. It is manifestly in the nature of a thin lenticularly formed atmosphere, surrounding the Sun, and extending at least beyond the orbit of Mercury and even of Venus, and may be conjectured to be no other than the denser part of that medium, which, as we have reason to believe, resists the motion of comets, loaded perhaps with the actual materials of the tails of millions of them, of which they have been stripped in their successive perihelion passages, and which may be slowly subsiding into the Sun."

It appears hereby that Sir John completely sanctions the existence of gaseous matter in the Sun's atmosphere. And for what other purpose could it be there, but for the supply of the waste of its light and heat by the combustion of this gaseous matter? And Sir John may well say as he does in the above most admirable treatise on Astronomy, "that there is an enormous degree of heat in the Sun."

The last extract we shall here make, as sanctioning

our theory of supply of the waste of the Sun's heat and light, is from a work published in 1841, called "Graham's Elements of Chemistry." "It has always been observed that there is a black line or lines among the rays received from the Sun through the prism on a spectrum. These black lines Philosophers had not been able to account for. But the atmosphere of the Sun has now received an entirely chemical character from late experiments of the celebrated Sir David Brewster, who found that on passing a ray of light from a common lamp through a medium of *nitrous oxyd gas*, it formed a thousand black lines on the spectrum. He, Sir David, thence infers (in accounting for the black lines when rays are received from the Sun) that gaseous matter exists in the sun's atmosphere, by which medium the black lines are produced on the spectrum." Doctor Graham adds, "that we may thus be able hereafter to explain how the light of the Suns of other systems is formed and maintained."

He thus evidently considers that the mode of supplying the waste of our own Sun's light and heat is explained by means of this gaseous atmosphere, and thereby supports our theory of the combustion of that matter for producing that supply.*

On a review of these concurrent testimonies, we, with humility, conceive therefore that our theory of the original formation of our Sun, by the light and heat evolved by the combustion of the gases for the formation of the universal ocean of Genesis; and of the mode of supplying the waste of the Sun's light and heat may be considered as nearly established.

Having thus concluded my attempt on the system of

* The above extract is taken from memory, but the substance will be found in Graham's Elements.

the creation of our earth and planets, and of the formation of their central Sun, with the means which I conceive may have been adopted by the Creator to supply the vast waste of his combustion, we now proceed to the last part of our prospectus, namely, the dissolution of our globe, with the possible changes which the present state of our knowledge would lead us to presume would be the result of it.

DISSOLUTION OF OUR GLOBE.

By the authority of Scripture, we are informed, that the globe we inhabit is doomed to dissolution by the element of fire. We cannot, indeed, presume to say that the nature of this conflagration shall be the same, and be governed by the same laws as those which take place at present, but judging from the hitherto immutable nature of those laws, we shall proceed to consider the principal changes which, according to them, would take place at this general conflagration. There are, indeed, many parts in the external and internal phenomena of the earth, which subject it continually to change and decomposition. The probable effects also, of its continual motion in the heavens, and the possible contact of other heavenly bodies, perhaps igneous, appear to confirm the destiny recorded in the Scriptures.

The late discoveries however, in pneumatic chemistry, have proved to us, that what had hitherto been considered as destruction by fire, is only a *change*, or decomposition of the various combustible bodies, into the elements of which they are composed. A great proportion of the vegetable world is found to be reduced by combustion, into elastic vapour called gases; and it is not improbable, (at least if we assent to the facts stated by, and the opinion of, professor Chaptal, which I have before mentioned, on the productions of the

vegetative process ; and also, the still higher authority of professor Linnæus, quoted above, whereby many of the primary earths and metals are proved to be the products of vegetation,) that the various earths and metals, and their combinations, may hereafter be found to consist of compounds of the bases of the gases of oxygen, hydrogen and azote.

In the foregoing system of creation, I have stated that lead is found to gain an accession of weight by oxydation of nearly ten pounds in one hundred pounds, by the absorption of oxygen from the atmosphere. This oxygen must therefore exist in the oxyd, in a solid state. Pit-coal and pot-ash are found also to contain oxygen and hydrogen in the same state, and the Schisti or slate mountains are also said to have been composed by the decomposition of vegetables, which are primarily composed of these gases ; and these schisti, therefore, in part, consist of solid oxygen, &c. In fine, from these facts, and many others stated in the foregoing pages, we have, in the theory of creation, come to the conclusion that the processes of vegetation and of animalization were the machinery chosen by the First Cause for the gradual production of all the geological bodies of which our earth is composed.

Now, the marine vegetables of the waters or ocean of Genesis, can have imbibed their nourishment only from these waters and the air imbibed by them, and must have had the power conferred on their natures to decompose these waters, and to re-compose by the process of vegetation (as we find to be the case in terrestrial vegetables) a vast variety of new productions, all of which, however dense, must have possessed the constituent elements of water and air, oxygen, hydrogen and azote, for their final elements.

The depositions then of the marine vegetable world, having formed a certain and a very great proportion of the geological bodies of the earth, the remainder of them we have conceived to have been formed by the depositions and labours of the marine animals. The habitations or shells of these, we have shewn in various parts of the foregoing theory, to compose a considerable portion of the earth; and the vast generations of these animals, after their decay and decomposition, have, no doubt, according to their affinities and gravities by their deposition, formed or entered into the structure of the remaining geological products.

In the course of our theory, we have endeavoured to shew, that the vast chalk and lime stone formations of the earth, may also have been the result of the decomposition or disintegration of these marine shells.— On this subject, we have to add one observation; bearing considerably on our present object, namely, the *final* elements of the geological bodies. It is, that chalk and lime stone, being carbonates of lime, must also, therefore, consist of a great proportion of oxygen in a solid state, their carbonic acid being compounded of oxygen and carbon. Lime itself, also has afforded Sir H. Davy a metallic button; it is therefore an oxyd, and contains oxygen in the same solid state.

Dr. Buckland, in his late Bridgewater Treatise, states, that lime stone and some other rocks are, in great part, composed of the remains of certain fossile animalculæ. (*See Note 5th to 2d Edition.*)

The marine animals, again, of the waters of Genesis, whether they derived their nutrition directly from those waters, or from the plants contained in them, or both, must finally have been composed of the constituent

